

SYNOPSIS

On 30.06.2015 at 12:26 h UTC, in the controlled upper airspace of the Republic of Bulgaria, particularly in Sofia Control FS Varna East Upper airspace an infringement of the standards on the minimum radar separation between two aircraft occurred. An unidentified unknown aircraft flying without two way radio communication and without transmitting transponder (Mode A/C) passed by a controlled aircraft Falcon 900, registration marks VP-CGD, of "VOLKSWAGEN AIR SERVICE" AO, performing flight with flight number WGT62N, at a minimal horizontal distance at 0.9 nm at same FL 370. Later on the unidentified unknown aircraft established radio communication with Sofia ACC FS Varna West and it was identified as Embraer 170 aircraft, registration marks SP-LDK, performing flight with flight number LOT7293 of "LOT" AO.

Based on the grounds of the performed investigation, including the research and analysis of the available factual information, the Investigation Commission concluded that the serious incident resulted from the following main and several accompanying causes:

Main cause:

- Unintentional interruption of the Air Traffic Service in regard to LOT7293 on the side of ACC Bucharest after changing of the aircraft transponder mode of operation to STANDBY, particularly in Bucharest Control BANAP sector, during the its flight in Bucharest FIR and later on in Sofia FIR.

Accompanying causes:

- Not implemented procedures by the flight crew of Embraer 170, registration marks SP-LDK, after the momentary failure of the transponder system.
 - Not provided information in timely manner on the location, direction of flight and height of the unidentified aircraft by ACC Bucharest to ACC Sofia, previously received from NATO07.
 - Not implemented procedures by ACC Bucharest from the LETTER OF AGREEMENT between BULATSA SOFIA ACC and ROMATSA BUCUREȘTI ACC/CONSTANȚA APP.
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- E.1 Transfer of Control
 - E.2 Transfer of Communications;
 - F.2.5 Transfer of Aircraft Identification.