

Region Policy – Europe

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1. Divisions & VACCs within Europe Region

“VATSIM Europe Region” is divided into three Divisions which are directly affected by this Region Policy, but act individually in terms of internal regulations governing online activities of their members:

- 1) **Europe VATSIM-EUD Database Code: [EUD]** (Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azores, Balearic Islands, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Yugoslavia)
- 2) **United Kingdom VATSIM-UK Database Code: [GBR]** (United Kingdom)
- 3) **Russian Federation VATSIM-RUS Database Code: [RUS]** (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan)

Each Division is referred to as VATSIM-XXX, where XXX is the Division code assigned by VATSIM Europe Region. The management of the countries delegated to VATSIM Europe Region in Code of Regulations section §3.03 B3 is further delegated to the divisions as per the allocation above in brackets.

The Europe Region Director (VATEUR1) is responsible for the appointment of a Division Director. The Division Director is in turn responsible for:

- 1) Establishing a divisional website

- 2) Developing and enforcing a divisional policy, subject to approval by VATSIM Europe Region Director
- 3) Promoting online presence of both controllers and pilots through monitoring member training, progression and retention
- 4) Establishing his/her staff team including the appointment of a Divisional Conflict Resolution Manager (DCRM), as per VATSIM Code of Regulations

Each Division usually consists of several VACCs (“Virtual Area Control Centres”) which coordinate local ATC & Flight procedures within an area as defined by the respective division.

Each VACC is usually -but not bound to be- named after its Country (contrary to real ACCs named after FIRs), and may be also referred to, for text shortcuts, as ACCXXX or ACCXX, where XXX or XX is the international country code decided to be used by the respective VACC staff members.

2. Individual Policies

Divisions are responsible for setting their Policy that is not included in this (Region Policy) section. Members who connect to the VATSIM Network have to abide by the contents of:

- VATSIM Code of Conduct
- VATSIM Code of Regulations

- Region Policy
- Division Policy
- vACC Local Regulations

By connecting to the network you agree to comply with these rules. Each vACC belongs to a Division, which in turn belongs to one of the six VATSIM Regions.

3. Staff Callsigns

Within “VATSIM Europe Region”, staff members may sign public statements or connect to the network as:

- VATEUR# if they are “VATSIM Europe Region” staff, where # is their assigned number as displayed on the Region’s staff page.
- VATXXX## if they are official staff of one of the VATSIM Europe Region’s Divisions (non VACC), where XXX is the Division code (i.e. EUD, UK or RUS) and ## is their staff number, as displayed on the Division’s staff pages.

• ACCxxx## or ACCxx## if they are authorised VACC staff (non Division or Region), where xxx is the VACC country ID code (e.g. FR, IT, FIN, GR), and ## the VACC authorised staff number as displayed in each VACC’s staff pages. Additionally where some vACCs have more split staff for ATC and Pilots training more callsigns may be used in the form of:

- o ATDNNNXX – Same as above, but ATD for ATC Training Department members;
- o PTDNNNXX – Same as above, but PTD for Pilot Training Department members.

These callsigns are not to be used while providing ATC on the network. They may be used for Administrative, Event Co-ordination and Training purposes, and care should be taken to restrict the range of Radar Clients so as to avoid unnecessary coverage. No staff member shall connect with his/her staff callsign while being connected as Pilots or while providing ATC services.

4. Europe Region Staff

VATSIM Europe Region” (VATEUR) comprises of the following staff members as displayed in the “Staff” page:

- Region Director – VATEUR1
- Deputy Region Director – VATEUR2
- Region Membership Director – VATEUR3
- Strategic Development Director – VATEUR4
- Region Conflict Resolution Panel (RCRP)

The Region Director (RD) is appointed by the VATSIM Board of Governors. The rest of the staff is appointed by the Region Director.

5. ATC privileges of resident, transferring and visiting Europe Region members

Local Facilities (LF) which, depending on their Division are called VACCs, FIRs or RTSS – or Division itself where an LF does not exist – are the administering bodies who handle Air Traffic Controllers (ATCOs) locally. LFs are in charge of training, assessing competency and recommending member ID upgrades related to provision of ATC. Any rules and procedures put into place by an LF are subject at all times to the oversight of their Division.

Within VATEUR for a controller to provide Air Traffic Control (ATC) in an LF’s airspace, he or she must be a registered member, either permanent or as a visiting controller, of the LF.

LFs may decline membership of a Controller only by providing clear proof of either of the following:

- That the member is incapable of providing ATC services as specified in the VATSIM Global Rating Policy (GRP) ATC competencies; or

- That the member ceases to be a member of good standing in the local community of the LF as such term is reasonably defined and posted on the LF’s website.

Declining a Controller’s membership in an LF can only be used in extreme circumstances and shall never replace the VATSIM Disciplinary Procedures as set forth by the VATSIM Code of Regulations and the Code of Conduct. A member with refused or terminated LF membership has the right to file a written appeal of the refusal with Division management and even Region management if he or she believes any action taken was unfair. In general LFs must do their best to their ability in helping members solving issues mentioned above before terminating or refusing membership. This is a community hobby based on shared support between members. LFs are not only governing bodies but also support centers towards their local community.

There shall be no restriction in Divisions’ policy regarding exclusive membership to only one LF which

may restrict provision of ATC services at other LFs as visiting controller. Any ATCO can be visiting controller to other LFs but one has to be the home LF of the ATCO (for training, testing & upgrade reasons) with the same criteria as specified in the Executive Committee's (EC) global Transfer and Visiting Controller Policy (TVCP).

A member from one VATEUR Division is not allowed to connect and provide ATC in LF's Airspace belonging to another of its Divisions (EUD, RUS, UK). The only exceptions to cross Division ATC provision is when:

- a member has been accepted as a "Visiting Controller" within a specific Division's LF or
- Divisions establish Letters of Agreement (LoA) for specific cases of ATC provision

The procedure of Division visiting controllers should follow TVCP as set for all of VATSIM.

If an ATCO plans to permanently change Division (i.e. not be a Visiting Controller), then he or she must communicate with the new Division Membership department which in turn will coordinate the process further. Contact information is available at the Divisions' websites.

A member from another Region (not VATSIM Europe Region) is not allowed to provide ATC within Europe Region's airspace, unless the member has been formally accepted (and published) as a "Visiting Controller" by a specific LF within a Division of VATEUR. If an ATCO occasionally plans to provide such ATC, then a "Visiting Controller" status is what he or she needs. If a Controller from another Region needs to provide ATC more frequently, then he or she needs to process a Region Transfer. The local vs visiting limits of this frequency are as described in TVCP.

The procedure of Region visiting controller should follow the TVCP as set for all of VATSIM. Region transfers are initiated on member's request via the Member Services Area on the main VATSIM website. Unless the member asks VATEUR1 to cancel the transfer, it will automatically take place in the following 2~4 days.

- In the case of Region Transfer of Pilot/OBS rated members, the procedure is straight forward and takes only a couple of days.
- In the case of Region Transfer of ATC rated members, he or she has to follow the TVCP which EC introduced as a Global Policy.

The Region Transfer takes place in two steps for ATC rated members:

1. Processing the request via the ID Maintenance page
2. If the transferee holds an ATC rating (above Pilot/OBS) then Region filters the application data and assigns the transfer to relevant Division based on transfer data supplied in the application by the transferee. Then the Division coordinates further with receiving LF the acceptance of the transferee and once coordination is complete the transfer takes place. Once ATC rated member transfers the receiving LF has the right to execute a competency check for the rating held as specified in GRP and TVCP.

Note: step 2 is not executed if member is Pilot/OBS rated.

6. Global Ratings Policy (GRP)

VATSIM EC has established the Global Ratings Policy (GRP) which can be found at the VATSIM EC policies page. All Divisions have to abide to GRP in their ATC training, assessment and rating award procedures. The policy includes annexes with minimum ATC competencies set for all of VATSIM and Designated airports & airspace which need extra endorsement in order for a controller to provide ATC

within. All Divisions should make sure the VACC/FIR websites list endorsed controllers for their designated airports & airspace in case network supervisors need to refer to it. Local rules as specified in GRP should not be more restrictive than these set within GRP.