MEETING MINUTES

TOWN HALL 12/06/2024

Meeting Minutes – Town Hall meeting - 12/06/24

Version:	For public use
Date and time:	12/06/24 20:00 to 22:00 Local time

Welcome

All attendees were welcomed to the Town Hall meeting.

Updates from our departments

1. Director

- Some background into GCAP was given: the extensive vACC involvement prior to its entry into force, the actual entry into force, the most important changes, but also what this meant/means for our vACC in practice. Just like in many other vACCs within EUD, general concerns regarding ATC quality, due to the lowered standards in GCAP, were raised.
- Some background into TVCP was given: the complete lack of vACC involvement prior to its entry into force, the actual entry into force, the most important changes, but also what this meant/means for our vACC in practice. Despite the explicit request from many EUD vACCs, based on the reply from the BoG, we have little hope for a swift amendment of this policy. Our vACC continues to stand with the other EUD vACCs to revise the policy as soon as possible, yet this time with prior and active involvement of the vACCs.
- The project regarding EuroCenter vACC (EUC) was briefly mentioned. Yet, considering that this project is still ongoing and not yet sufficiently mature, the information given was deliberately limited.

2. Training Department

- Yannis announced his resignation as ATC Training Director. He was thanked for his efforts during the last few years. The ATC Deputy Training Director is to continue the departmental operations for now. Discussions regarding the way forward and the replacement of the ATC Training Director are to be held soon.
- The new ATC training materials, (being) created due to GCAP, were introduced. A joint vACC effort is to finalize (hopefully soon) a general basic ATC guide for EUD. Our vACC is working on even more material, at this stage

for the initial training only, which is to be used as soon as training as per the new training scheme commences.

- Lastly, the new ATC training scheme, which is GCAP compliant, and presumed timeline for all these novelties within the ATC training department were presented.

3. Event Department

- The Event and Social Media Coordinator presented the upcoming events.
- A workflow/checklist has been created in order to avoid forgetting about one or more steps during the preparation and management of events.
- Lastly, it was confirmed that the "photo of the airac"-concept was abandoned. Instead, you can now send in photos that can be used in banners for our future vACC events.

4. Navigation Department

- Regarding the latest messages on changes in the authentication by EuroScope, the Navigation Director confirmed that ATCs can use either the latest stable version of EuroScope (v3.2.9) or one of the old, yet patched for improved authentication, versions (v.3.2.2.1 or v.3.2.3.1). All can be downloaded from the EuroScope website.

5. Technical Department

- The Web & App Director summarized the latest improvements and changes to our IT-systems. The most significant ones were (obviously) all modifications related to the entry into force of GCAP.

6. Membership Department

- Our Membership Director informed us that he is currently less (visibly) available due to personal projects. However, he continues to follow up on things, with the Board, from behind the scenes. He emphasized that members can still get in touch with him via e-mail, DM, etc. You will receive a reply, yet it might take a bit longer than before.

Questions and updates from members

The stage was opened to all attendees to ask further questions or give feedback. These can generally be summarised as follows:

- <u>DIR</u>: The available C1(+)-rated controllers indicated their support for the position taken by our vACC in the ongoing EUC discussions. Questions were asked regarding the vacancy for ATC Training Director, yet at this point in time it was too soon to say something other than the fact that our vACC has always had the custom to open up all vacancies for all members to apply (provided they meet the requirements).
- <u>ATC TD</u>: Many different ideas were voiced to suggest further improvements regarding the way of working within the new ATC training scheme (mentor pool, Moodle, more handbooks, multi-trainee sessions, etc.). However, the current and sole priority of the department is on getting fully GCAP-compliant. The different ideas can/will be considered once that is done. Moreover, the future new ATC Training Director should also be actively involved in these discussions. The ATC mentors have expressed their willingness and availability to help the department lead with any ongoing projects (as much as they reasonably can). This help was welcomed and, hence, the ATC Deputy Training Director will task specific projects to the mentors.
- <u>EVENT</u>: A request for bi-weekly events and a new edition of our Overload event was made. It was asked if we would participate again during the upcoming Skeyes Openbedrijvendag event (if we are asked again), which we intend to (if invited). A request was made to look into how we can ensure that very new trainees are sufficiently proficient prior to having them participate in events, especially considering the now lowered GCAP-standards. Lastly, it was suggested to the Event and Social Media Coordinator to change the timings as to when an event is announced, opened for booking, and when to inform the neighbouring sectors.
- <u>TECH (+ATC TD)</u>: Requested to update the statement on our website regarding the current waiting times for training.

Any Other Business (AOB)

NIL (apart from a Discord Putt Party!)

Agenda

Welcome

Updates from our departments

Questions and updates from members

Any Other Business (AOB)

Director

Director

Policies

- Global Controller Administration Policy (GCAP)
    - Lengthy, stepwise discussions with active involvement of vACCs
    - Into force March 1st 2024, superseding the Global Ratings Policy (GRP)
    - Noteworthy changes:
        - VATSIM wide standards and limits for controller activity, controller currency and controller roster requirements.
        - Introduction of several types of 'Designated Status' for ATC positions to allow more flexibility
            - Replaces 'Major Airports' and 'Special Centers'
        - Lowering and limiting overall training requirements
        - (Sub)Divisions must publish requirements for all restrictions and endorsements on their website.

Belux vACC

Director

Policies

- Global Controller Administration Policy (GCAP) – in practice
    - Resulted in new versions of divisional policy and divisional training policy
        - Also here, lengthy and stepwise discussions with active involvement of vACCs
        - To Do: Decide if certain allowable requirements are to be adopted within Belux vACC (a.k.a. vACC policy)
    - Application was filed to VP EMEA to grant Brussels (EBBR) Tier 1 status (closely resembles former 'major airport' status), which was approved and published
    - ATC TD tasked to develop new training scheme, compliant with GCAP, in conjunction with VATEUD ATC TD.
        - Concerns on ATC quality exist up to today.
    - Technical department tasked to implement technical changes accordingly

Director

Policies

- Transfer and Visiting Controller Policy (TVCP)
    - Regrettably, no involvement of vACCs (or even divisions)!
    - Update into force June 1st 2024
    - Noteworthy changes:
        - Transfer and Visiting training requirements aligned with GCAP standards
        - (Re)defined Transfer and Visiting processes
        - Minimum S3 rating required for visiting outside of your home division
        - Minimum S2 rating required for visiting inside of your home division (only if allowed by divisional policy)
        - Divisions / subdivisions must allow controllers from any region / division to visit.
        - Divisions / subdivisions must allow controllers to visit any control position, both unrestricted and designated positions.

Belux vACC

Director

Policies

- Transfer and Visiting Controller Policy (TVCP) – in practice
    - Large number of vACCs indicated issues and disagreements; and called for the division to react to the non-involvement of vACCs in drafting the updated policy. In addition, an open letter was send from the vACCs to the BoG.
        - BoG: "The relevant BoG members (VP Regions) working on the TVCP have received or been made aware of the letter and are aware of all the raised concerns. However, don't expect anything to change to the policy before it goes into effect June 1st. That will always be later on, with a future update to the policy (not saying anything will change at all, but definitely not short term)"

Director

EuroCenter vACC (EUC)

- Since GCAP, all former 'Special Centers' statuses were lost, effectively ending EUC operations as a standalone vACC.

- Division, EUC, VATSIM Germany, Belux and Dutch vACC had a first meeting in which a proposal was presented by EUC aiming at implementing the real life Maastricht sectors (EURM) on VATSIM.

- Follow-up written Q&A was done by EUC, VATSIM Germany, Belux and Dutch vACC; and is still ongoing.

- Key element in our position: Keep our priority over our upper airspace.

Training Department

Training Department

Resignation of Yannis Kens from ACCBE2

- Thanks to Yannis for his incredibly hard work in the last year and a half, and previously as deputy!

- Some of the projects achieved:
  - Updating the SOPs to latest IRL procedures
  - Improving further expansion of our mentor team
  - Creation of the BABS Bot
  - Drafting new training documents for the vACC (TBD later)

Belux
vACC

Training Department

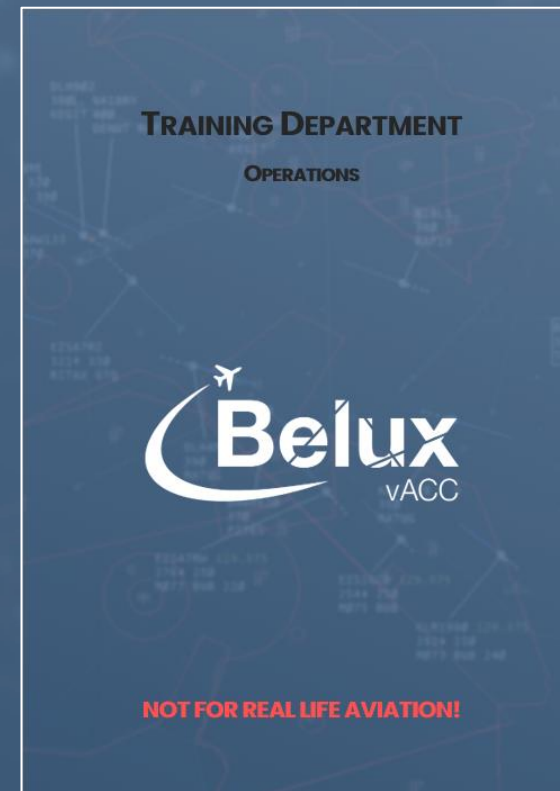## New GCAP Compliant Training System

- New EUD General Basic

SUBJECT 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

SUBJECT 2: AVIATION LAW

SUBJECT 3: AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT 4: METEOROLOGY

SUBJECT 5: NAVIGATION

SUBJECT 6: AIRCRAFT

SUBJECT 7: HUMAN FACTORS

SUBJECT 8: EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS

SUBJECT 9: WORKING ENVIRONMENT

VATEUD

Aviation Law

Version 1.0

FOR VATSIM USE ONLY

1

Belux vACC

Training Department

New GCAP Compliant Training System

- Materials

BELUX VACC

S1 PRACTICAL HANDBOOK

NOT FOR REAL LIFE AVIATION!

TRAINING DEPARTMENT

OPERATIONS

NOT FOR REAL LIFE AVIATION!
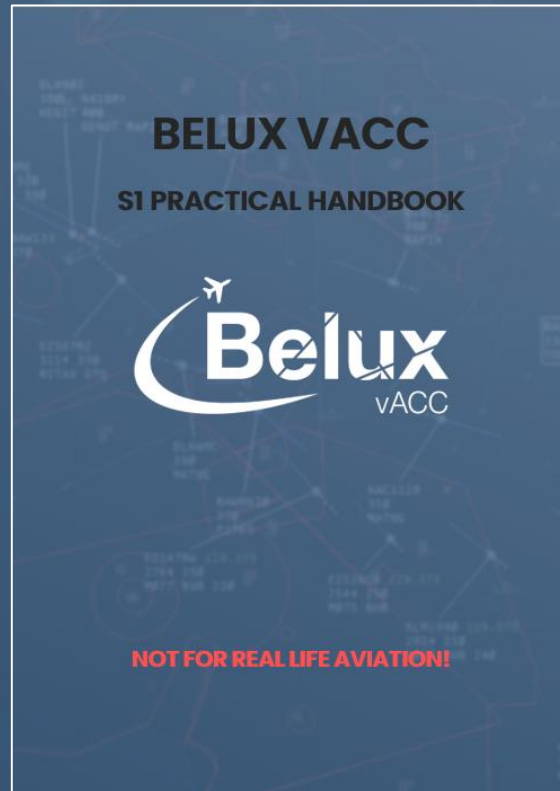
Training Department

New GCAP Compliant Training System

- Materials – S1 Practical Handbook
  - Basic RTF Guide
  - Outline of GND/DEL Responsibilities
  - Flows of ARRs or DEPs as DEL or GND
  - Simplified guides of our minors

Belux
vACC

Training Department

New GCAP Compliant Training System

- Materials - Training Department Operation
    - Outline of training system
    - Criteria to be a mentor
    - Special cases of training (Fast track, returning controller, transfer)
    - Required controller competencies
    - Trainee/Mentor responsibilities and expectations

Belux vACC

Training Department

New GCAP Compliant Training System

- New training flow

Training Department

New GCAP Compliant Training System

- Timeline
    - Release of the S1 Handbook and Training Department Ops by mid-July
    - One-month transitional period to allow completion of internal theory exams
    - Application of appropriate endorsements to whom passed the theory exams
    - Release of APS Training Manual - date TBD (Not before the end of September)

    - Release of EUD General Basic - TBD with other vACCs

Event Department

Event Department

Upcoming events

- Brussel – Toulouse 29 Sep

- Marseille – Brussel 9 Nov

- Cross the Belux vACC (ELLX-EBOS) (14 Aug)

- Dublin – Charleroi TBD

- CTL (hopefully) 14 Sep (application open in 2 days)

- EBBR SRO 3 Jul

- EBLG Fly-in 21 Jul

- EBBR-EDDF Sep

- ELLX – EDDP Oct

Belux
vACC

Event Department

Events workflow

- Plan a date (with other vACC)
- Create ATC request (Belux discord and ECFMP (other vACC's))
- Create banner and text
- Upload event
  - My vatsim
  - EUD core
  - Our discord
- Notify VA's if applicable (ELLX and EBBR events)
- Create roster
- Plan posts on socials

Event Department

Photos for Banners

- Send your own content
    - Screenshots
    - Plane spotting
- Gives explicit permission for using it on banners

Belux vACC

Navigation Department

Belux vACC

Technical Department

Technical

ADIDS

- Small UX changes, such as remembering the original destination in the login flow (for example, returning to the same page after logging in)

- General improvements

My Belux

- The automatic sync of Belux vACC to Core was successful and is now live.

- UX improvements: search results have been improved, now searching on multiple fields simultaneously.

Belux
vACC

Technical

beluxvacc.org

The Belux vACC website has undergone some changes: (ATC Roster uses My Belux information and the new ATC-position structure, style improvements, etc.)

Membership Department

Request Training

Read Manuals

Read EUD Core Theory

Belux S1 Test

Passed test? — No / Yes

EUD s1 Test

Passed test? — Yes / No

Regional Ground Training

Choose prefered rating

[S2 training]

[S1 Tier 1]

S2 locals training (ELLX_TWR)

Tier 1 (s1) Training (EBBR_GND)

* Assumption User passes CPT Exam

Recieve S2 rating

Recieve Tier 1 (S1) raiting

Has S2 rating?

[S3 rating]   [S1 T1 rating]

No / Yes

S2 training (ELLX_TWR)

S3 training (ELLX_APP)

Recieve S2 rating

Recieve S3 rating

Has S2 T1 rating?

No / Yes

S2 T1 training (EBBR_TWR)

S2 T1 training (EBBR_TWR)

S3 training (ELLX_APP)

Recieve S3 rating

Recieve Tier 1 (S1) raiting

S3 training (EBBR_APP)

C1 training (EBBU_CTR)

Recieve C1 rating