

24 September 2019
EP –TRAN Committee

Special Report N°11/2019:

**The EU's regulation
for the modernization
of air traffic management
has added value
– but the funding
was largely unnecessary**



EUROPEAN
COURT
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What did we look at ?



What questions did we ask?



What did we find?



What do we recommend?



What did we look at ?

The EU's intervention in Air Traffic Management



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- SESAR: the technological pillar of the Single European Sky.
- SESAR has three phases: definition, development and deployment.
- EU financial support to SESAR: €3.8 billion for the period 2005-2020 (of which €2.5 billion earmarked to the deployment phase).
- In 2017, under Special Report 18/2017, we covered the definition and development phases.
- This audit has covered the deployment phase.



What questions did we ask?

How well did the Commission manage the deployment of SESAR?

Was the EU's participation in SESAR's deployment phase - comprising a regulatory framework and financial support:

- justified in terms of EU added value ?
- implemented in a way that represents an efficient use of EU resources ?
- contributed to improving the performance of European Air Traffic Management?



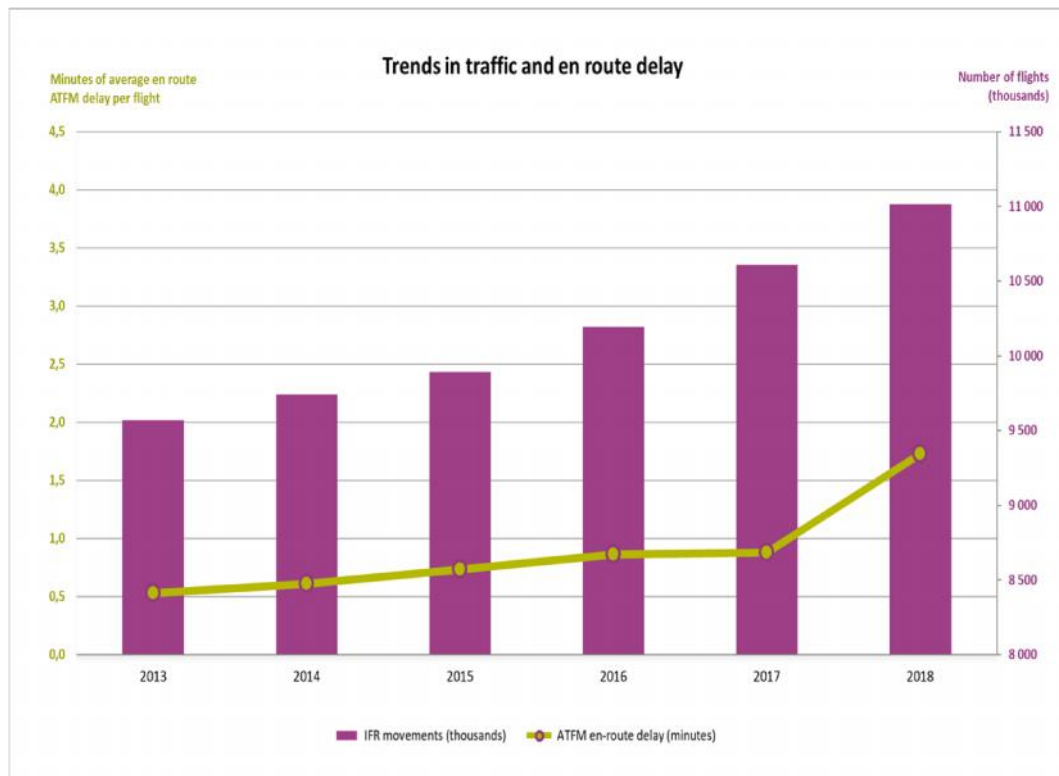
Observation

1

EU regulation of Air Traffic Management modernisation has added value, despite shortcomings

Air Traffic Management modernisation benefits from EU-level coordination

Pilot Common Project had shortcomings



Observation

2

EU funding was largely unnecessary

**Initial
rationale for
funding not
followed**

**Majority of
audited projects
did not need EU
funding**



Observation

3

Weaknesses in implementation further reduce effectiveness of EU funding

Lack of adequate prioritisation in early years

Clustering did not aid synchronisation of projects

Risk of conflict of interest not sufficiently mitigated

Observation

4

Improvements in European Air Traffic Management still not demonstrated

Deployment on going, but risk of delays increasing

Methodology for measuring performance under development



What do we recommend?

1

Improve the focus of common projects

2

Reinforce the effectiveness of common projects

3

Review the EU's financial support for Air Traffic Management modernisation

4

Review and formalise the preparation and submission of applications for funding

5

Ensure appropriate monitoring of performance benefits



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for your attention!**

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