InterFAB

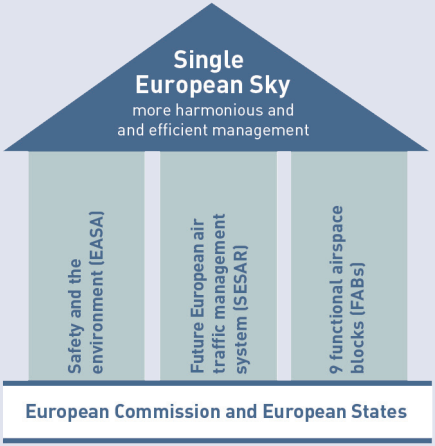
Cooperation for Single European Sky

FUNCTIONAL AIRSPACE BLOCKS

31 European countries within 9 Functional Airspace Blocks
for a safer and more efficient sky

"Better to know each other, better to work together!"

European airspace is amongst the busiest in the world. As air traffic continues to increase, a new approach was launched in 2004 to enhance the performance of airspace: the Single European Sky (SES).
Under the umbrella of the European Commission, this ambitious project is based on three pillars, one of which is Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs).



WHAT IS A FAB?

A FAB is an airspace block that reflects the need to ensure more integrated management of airspace regardless of the existing national boundaries. It is based on operational requirements such as safety, capacity, flight & cost efficiency, and covers lower and upper airspace.
By 2012, 9 FABs were established. However, each State maintains responsibility for its airspace.

WHO ARE IN FABs?

- States
- National Supervisory Authorities (NSA)
- Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs)
- National Military Authorities (MIL)

WHAT ARE FABs WORKING ON?

- **Flight safety** to maintain a high level of safety in a context of increasing traffic.
- **Airspace design and Flow Management**, including measures for improving flight efficiency , Free Route Airspace, integration of airspace management and air traffic flow management systems, advanced Flexible Use of Airspace and cross-border traffic management tools.
- **Modernisation of ATC tools, harmonisation / interoperability of technical systems** as an enabler for cross-border service provision, including dynamic sectorisation, provision of air navigation service in contingency situations, remote ATC towers.
- **Cost savings** through joint measures (initial training, communications, navigation and surveillance infrastructure, coordination of investment plans, coordinated Aeronautical Information Service provision) and rationalisation of technical systems, equipment and supporting services.
- **Customers and Users** consultations
- **Best practices**
- **Social dialogue**

Within SES, the Performance Review Unit (PRU) has developed a dedicated e-dashboard for the European Commission, to support National Supervisory Authorities in their SES monitoring activities.

INTERFAB: NATURAL TO COOPERATE

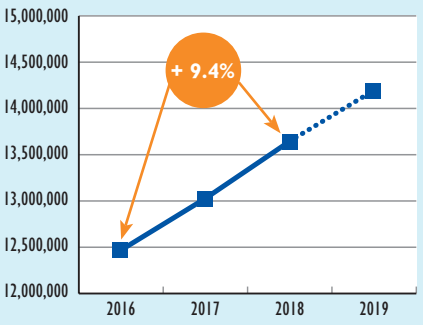
In 2015, all nine FABs jointly agreed to coordinate their activities, to share experiences at FABs level in order to deliver SES, formulate common goals on the challenges that FABs face and collectively to have a strong and cohesive voice in Europe. The InterFAB coordination platform was born!

Now, thanks to FABs, it has become easier to cooperate and find holistic operational solutions. So far this is the most profitable and politically-acceptable way to make our safe and efficient European Air Traffic Management (ATM) system evolve in the right direction.

For many partners, FABs became a *window of opportunity* in various areas like industrial partnership, international cooperation, best practice sharing, and research and development.

InterFAB organises workshops and conferences about critical issues for European airspace: volatility of air traffic, impact of weather, performance measuring, fragmentation and its impact on ATM performance, image of aviation.

IFR Traffic within 9 FABs airspace



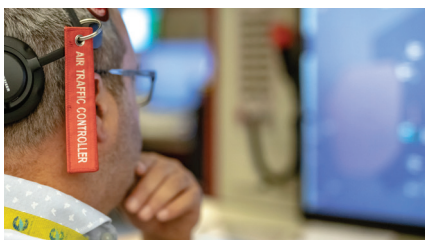
ADDED VALUE OF FABs

77 activities and projects leading
to positive benefits to safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental targets

An added value estimated to be
145 Mio EUR
per annum

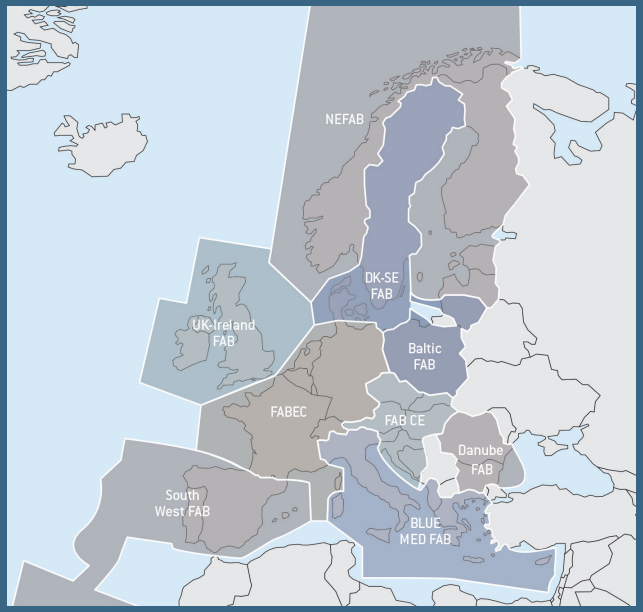
Source InterFAB: a generic cost-benefit analysis / 2018

ATM operations: ANSPs and States are involved in 31 activities.



31 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WITHIN 9 FUNCTIONAL AIRSPACE BLOCKS

European airspace covers about 11.5 million square kilometers and is used by nearly 14 million aircraft per year. EUROCONTROL has been appointed to manage the European network.



OBSERVERS
DANUBE FAB: Macedonia
FABCE: Macedonia, Serbia

KEY FIGURES OF 9 FABs IN 2018

Traffic
37,000 flights per day (+4.7% vs 2017)

Traffic peak in a day
26,991 flights

Overflights
12%

Int'l Departures/Arrivals
22%

Internal flights
66%

On-time flights at departure
93%

ATFCM delay
2'09 per flight

Source: EUROCONTROL

For more information

The story of Functional Airspace Blocks

www.inter-fab.eu