

## **BHANSA Addresses Critical Financial Challenges Due to Legal Actions**

The Bosnia and Herzegovina Air Navigation Services Agency (**BHANSA**) is currently facing significant financial and operational challenges following a **third-party attachment order** that has frozen essential route charge payments.

On 21 March 2025, **EUROCONTROL** was served with a Belgian court order mandating the freezing of all route charge payments to Bosnia and Herzegovina and BHANSA. This enforcement stems from an **investor-state arbitration dispute** involving Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although BHANSA is not a party to the case, the court ruling has directly impacted the agency's access to critical operational funding.

This development has jeopardized BHANSA's ability to maintain **safety-critical air navigation services**, including staff salaries, training, infrastructure maintenance, and the continuation of vital projects.

In response, BHANSA issued an **Urgent International Alert** on 27 March 2025 to EUROCONTROL, the European Commission, and ministries of transport and foreign affairs of EUROCONTROL Member States, calling for immediate action to safeguard the **route charge system**. A similar appeal was also sent to relevant **institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina**.

On 1 April 2025, BHANSA received a response from EUROCONTROL Director General **Raúl Medina**, who expressed strong solidarity with BHANSA. Mr. Medina confirmed that EUROCONTROL had promptly alerted the Belgian Government and the European Commission. He also highlighted the urgent importance of ratifying the **Additional Protocol** to the Seat Agreement—already approved by the Permanent Commission—which would reinforce **legal protections for route charge funds** and prevent future occurrences.

This case reveals a broader **systemic vulnerability** within the legal framework of the EUROCONTROL route charge system. Besides Bosnia and Herzegovina, similar legal actions have recently impacted ANSPs in **Spain, Moldova, and Albania**, underscoring the urgency for a coordinated and durable solution.

BHANSA continues to raise awareness through multiple channels, including within the **Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO)**. The issue was presented to the **CANSO Performance and Financial Group (PFG)** on 3 April 2025. CANSO is now preparing a formal statement on the matter, which is expected to be reviewed by the **CANSO EC3 Committee** and could be shared with relevant European and international bodies.

**BHANSA remains fully committed to supporting the development of long-term legal and institutional safeguards** that ensure the independence and continuity of air navigation services across Europe.

This situation presents a serious threat to the stability of the entire air navigation financing system. It is essential that all relevant stakeholders—national authorities, European

institutions, international organisations, and ANSPs—stand together and work toward a durable, systemic solution.