



*"[air navigation control, [...] is a task involving the exercise of public authority and is not of an economic nature, since that activity constitutes a service in the public interest which is intended to protect both the users of air transport and the populations affected by aircraft flying over them".  
(Extract of decision C.364/92 of the European Court of Justice).*

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## **All 131 ATCOs acquitted for the airspace closure of 2010 in Spain**

Brussels, 8 April 2022

ATCEUC celebrates the ruling of the Penal Court of Madrid that relieves the 131 workers from all responsibility for the airspace closure and from abandoning their working positions in December 2010.

The Court's decision also acquits the ATCOs that decided to reach an agreement with the plaintiffs in order to end an ordeal that lasted more than 10 years, with 9 different Judges, constant political pressure and a relentless media campaign of misinformation and public lynching.

Following this decision, USCA, the main union representing ATCOs in Spain with over 2000 members, will study legal actions to bring to justice those responsible for the airspace closure and subsequent declaration of the State of Alarm in the whole country.

The Sentence is final and cannot be appealed and goes in line with previous rulings in other Regional Courts such as in Santiago, where the judge defines the events as a lockout decided by AENA and a political decision, instead of a walkout from the workers as which the political figures and media treated this matter.

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