



VOLCEX 17 AIRCRAFT OPERATOR REPORT

Carlo Verelst, Manager ATM Infrastructure Europe

VOLCEX 17 DEBRIEF, LISBON, JANUARY 16, 2018



GENERAL

- This report is based on input from individual AOs (external participants + AOCCC), and based on my own experiences
- 30+ different AOs from around the world registered for participation
- VOLCEX 17 focused on the application of the (merged) EUR/NAT VACP



SPECIFIC FEATURES FOR AOs

- Activation of the Aircraft Operator Crisis Coordination Cell (AOCCC)
- Read/write access to EVITA allowing for AOs to create own special zones
- Use of tool to upload Special AIREPs (PIREPs) onto EVITA
- Ops teleconferences for interaction with VAAC, ATM, and national regulators



EXERCISE POSITIVES

- Good and timely preparation (incl. exercise directive and preparatory teleconferences)
- Flight operational decision making by AOs under volcanic ash conditions (danger zones in NOTAMs are a concern)
- Useful operational teleconferences (Web based in future ?)

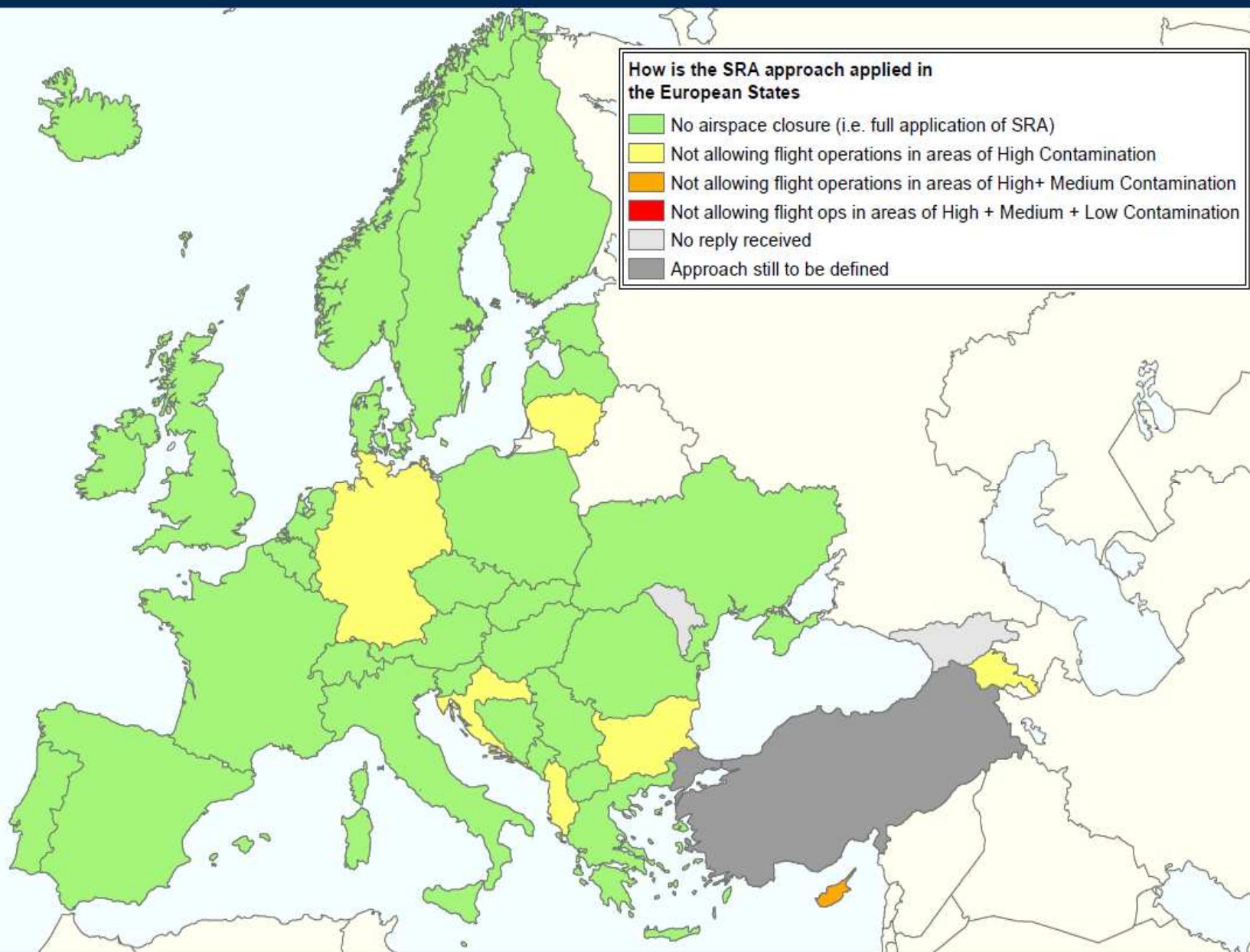


EXERCISE POSITIVES (2)

- Testing of AO contingency plans (involvement of crisis management team, network ops managers, flight planning, traffic managers, flight technical team, pilots managers, etc.)
- Testing of ATM responsiveness to need for AO operational flexibility (further improvement required)
- Increased emphasis on the use of SIGMETs
- Increased transparency of the SRA methodology approach (state policies)

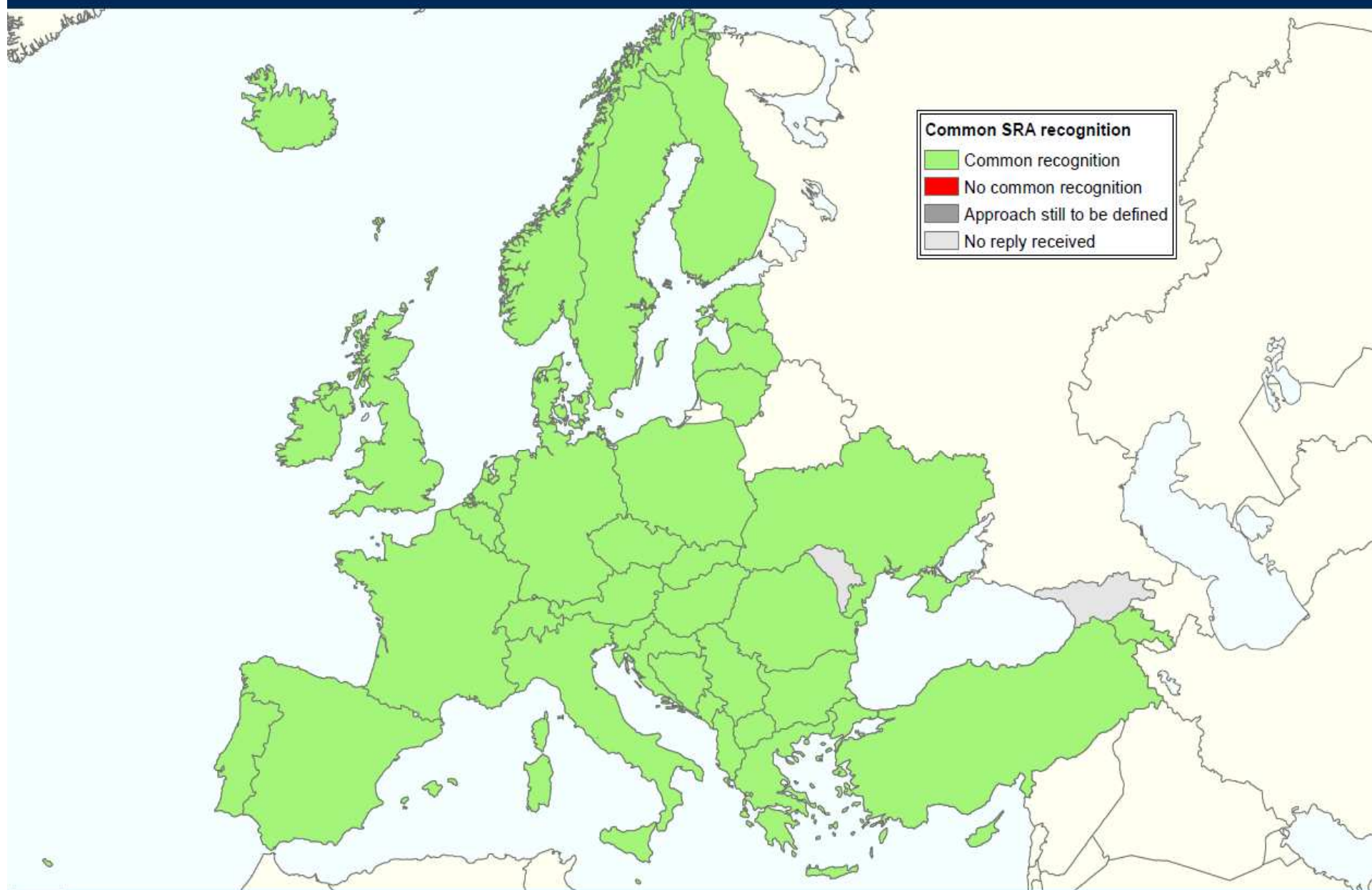
Volcanic ash - Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) approach

20/04/2010
20/04/2010





Volcanic ash - Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) approach



Disclaimer: This map reflects a combination of published state policies from different sources (AIP, AIC) and latest state intention provided to the Network Manager. While the NM will do its utmost to keep the map updated, there is no guarantee that the map will contain the latest information available.



EXERCISE POSITIVES (3)

- *Great value for airline operational planning (creation of a working plan for a real-time scenario)*
- *AOCCC essential for communications with the airlines*
- *VOLCEX is demonstrating to be very useful, especially when it comes to improving AO procedures and risk assessments*



EXERCISE AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Preparation of non-AO organisations
- Engagement by ANSPs
- General alignment with VACP (emphasis on efficiency + use of SIGMETs vs NOTAMs)
- Commercial MET product (e.g. WSI) providers + CFSPs to participate
- All exercise documentation in one location
- All publications to indicate “exercise”
- Tactical info on airport diversion capability desired



EVITA

- Useful tool overall (some AOs use their own tool)
- Tool is not self-explanatory and requires regular training (short training video on how to navigate ?)
- Too many windows/clicks for results (e.g. plotting, flight impact, aerodrome impact, airspace impact, etc.)
- Some new features desired (e.g. re-route proposal, buffer around ash, distance ruler, print, etc.)
- Worldwide tool is preferred



SPECIAL AIREP TOOL

- Good tool to share info (wider distribution through specialized weather Web sites desired)
- A bit cumbersome to use
- VOLCEX 16 problem with insertion of geographical coordinates resolved
- Graphical depiction desired
- Not all AOs use dispatch for relay of Special AIREPs



AO RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue volcanic ash exercises (and further improve realism + effectiveness)
- Re-run 2010 ash cloud and assess achieved improvements during 1-day exercise
- Further improve participant preparedness (slightly shift focus away from AOs, and organize a 1-day VACP refresher for others)
- Further improve EVITA (n-CONNECT involvement ?)
- Further harmonization of SRA methodology approach