

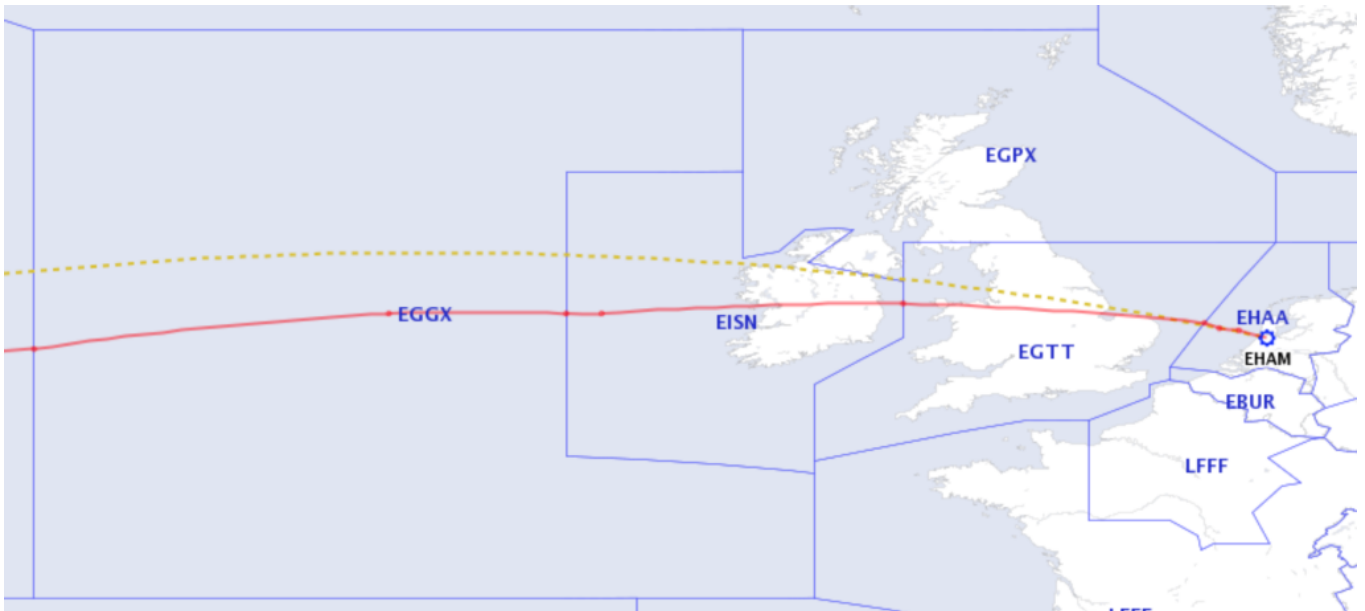
# Most expensive ATC in Europe?

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Let's say you have a flight heading to Europe tomorrow, and you're routing it eastbound via: Shanwick (EGGX), Shannon (EISN), and London (EGTT) FIR's into Amsterdam.

**Do you have any idea what it costs to talk to each controller, on an hourly basis?**



The answer might surprise you. We'll assume you're crossing in a B737, weighing around 80 tons (or 175,000 lbs). For an hour's worth of ATC on the Ocean, it's **50 bucks**.

Next up, you'll talk to Shannon - and this will cost you about **\$300** an hour in your B737. As soon as you enter London's airspace - same service - that rate goes up to about **\$1000** an hour.

For the above example, you'll have paid these charges, in USD:

- **Shanwick(Oceanic): \$50**

- **Shannon(Ireland):** \$280
- **London(UK):** \$780

Worth knowing, right? Eurocontrol publishes a list of Unit Rates each month – the current one for May 2016 is below. So who is the most expensive? Simple answer: **Switzerland**. Followed closely by the UK, Germany and Italy. As you can see, there are huge variations.

The **Unit charge** in each is what you will pay in a **50 ton aircraft** (the Boeing 717 is bang on this weight), for 50nm of that airspace. So, enter the Swiss FIR for 50 miles in a B717, and you'll get a bill for €104. If you operate a larger aircraft, then a weight factor is applied, for example, multiply everything by 1.25 for a B737. (If you want the maths, here's the formula).

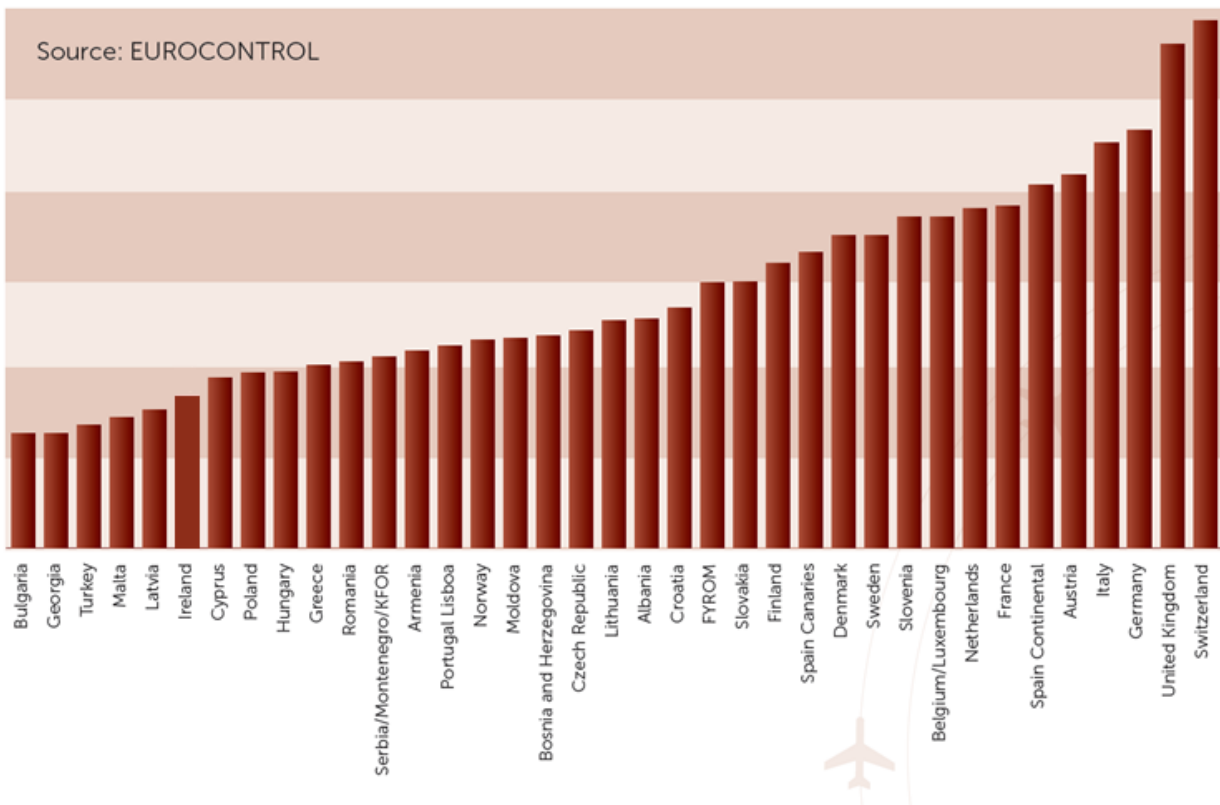
These are the May Unit Rates, just published, in order of expense, in Euro, which is \$1.15 right now.

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<b>ICAO</b>	<b>Airspace</b>	<b>Unit Rate</b>
LS	Switzerland	€ 104.14
EG	United Kingdom	€ 92.12
ED	Germany	€ 82.68
LI	Italy	€ 80.17
LO	Austria	€ 73.72
LE	Spain Continent.	€ 71.78
LF	France	€ 67.63
EH	Netherlands	€ 67.09
EB	Belg.-Luxembourg	€ 65.50
LJ	Slovenia	€ 65.47
ES	Sweden	€ 63.02
EK	Denmark	€ 61.91
LU	Moldova	€ 59.37
GC	Spain Canarias	€ 58.45
EF	Finland	€ 56.32
LZ	Slovak Republic	€ 52.63
LW	FYROM	€ 52.36
LD	Croatia	€ 48.02
LA	Albania	€ 45.61
EY	Lithuania	€ 44.99
LK	Czech Republic	€ 43.06
LQ	Bosnia Herzeg.	€ 41.88
EN	Norway	€ 41.05
LP	Portugal Lisboa	€ 39.99
UD	Armenia	€ 38.65
LY	Serb.-Montenegro-KFOR	€ 37.06
LR	Romania	€ 36.48
LG	Greece	€ 36.11
LH	Hungary	€ 35.04

EP	Poland	€ 33.84
LC	Cyprus	€ 33.66
EI	Ireland	€ 29.76
EV	Latvia	€ 27.40
LM	Malta	€ 25.88
LT	Turkey	€ 25.69
UG	Georgia	€ 23.80
LB	Bulgaria	€ 22.68
AZ	Portugal S M	€ 10.89

EUROCONTROL En route unit rates € - 2016



Further reading:

**Eurocontrol Guide to Route Charges**