



# **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE CENTER (NSARC)**

**AND**

**TIRANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SHPK (TIA)**

**FOR**

**COOPERATION IN SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS IN THE  
EVENT OF AN AIR INCIDENT IN TIA'S AREA OF  
RESPONSIBILITY**

**Tirana, 2024**



NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE  
CENTER

TIRANA INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT SHPK

No .....<sup>129</sup>.....Prot, date <sup>27</sup>/<sub>03</sub> / 2024

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**INTRODUCTION**

This Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as the "Memorandum") is drafted by and between the National Search and Rescue Center (NSARC) at the Ministry of Defence of Albania (hereinafter referred to as "NSARC") and Tirana International Airport SHPK, (hereinafter referred to as "TIA"). Jointly hereinafter referred to as the "Parties".

The organization of the Search and Rescue service and the obligations of the Republic of Albania in regard to this service are determined by international conventions and legal and bylaws ratified and approved by the authorities of our country.

In the context of their legal and institutional representation in support of applicable legislation (national and international) for the management, coordination and conduct of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations within TIA's area of responsibility.

Recognizing the need for cooperation to achieve their primary objectives, which are to save human life in the event of a SAR accident. Considering that a Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation will help to resolve joint operational situations in the most efficient way possible.

Having regard to the following legal references:

- Annex 12 "Search and Rescue" International Civil Aviation Convention of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), Chicago 1944
- Law No. 9312, dated 11.11.2004 "On the Ratification of the Concession Agreement concluded between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and Tirana International Airport SHPK (formerly known as Tirana Airport Partners SHPK), for the construction, operation and maintenance of Tirana International Airport "Nënë Tereza", as well as for providing certain incentives to the Company in accordance with the Concession Agreement" and especially Schedule 55 of the Concession Agreement, as amended.
- Law No. 96/2020 "Air Code of the Republic of Albania",
- Law no. 10435, dated 23.06.2011 "For the Search and Rescue Service in the Republic of Albania"
- Decision No.1115, dated 24.12.2020 "On the approval of the National Civil Aviation Security Program (NCASP)".
- Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 729, dt. 13.11.2019 "National plan for search and rescue service"
- Decision of the Council of Ministers no. 742, dated 16.10.2012 "On the organization and functioning of the National Search and Rescue Center".
- Order of Minister of Infrastructure and Energy No. 170, date 13/09/2022 "On the approval of Regulation for the definition of administrative requests and procedures regarding the Aerodromes in the Rpublic of Albania"
- Albanian Air Traffic Services Operation Manual.
- Airport Security Program.
- Airport Emergency Plan.



**WHEREAS**

- (i) The Concession Agreement provides that TIA enjoys the right, power and authority to perform, inter alia, the maintenance, operation, management and development of the Airport;
- (ii) The Parties share the vision of enabling the strengthening of cooperation regarding the improvement of Safety and a quick response to Search and Rescue activities to be performed in the Concession Area.
- (iii) The mission of NSARC is the management and coordination of search and rescue operations in the land, sea and air space of the Republic of Albania, in the event of various disasters by intervening, searching, finding and rescuing lost and missing persons when human life is at risk;

TIA and NSARC are fully committed to the implementation of the terms and conditions provided in this Memorandum.

Both parties are obliged to coordinate with each other for any change in their operational status or means of operation, which affect the procedures specified in this Technical Agreement.

**FOR THESE REASONS**, the Parties agree as follows:

**Definitions**

The following definitions shall apply to this Memorandum:


“Airport”	shall have the meaning set forth in the Concession Agreement.
“Search and Rescue Service (SAR)”	It is the Search and Rescue Service, which means structures, surveillance systems, personnel and tools for conducting search and rescue operations.
“Search”	An operation normally coordinated by a rescue coordination centre or rescue subcentre, using available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress. (ICAO Annex 12)
“Rescue”	An operation to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs, and deliver them to a place of safety. (ICAO Annex 12)
“Search-and-rescue case”	Any possible disaster, or that has occurred, for which an SAR structure has created a documentation folder, even though SAR resources have not been activated.

<b>“Search-and-rescue incident”</b>	Any situation that requires SAR system information and notification, and that may require SAR operations.
<b>“Rescue Coordination Center”</b>	The center from which a SAR incident is controlled and coordinated. Various names are used for this center, such as Rescue Coordination Center, Office of Major Incidents, Operation Office. For the purposes of this Memorandum, this center is called the National Search and Rescue Center (NSARC) or Rescue Coordination Center (RCC).
<b>“Search and rescue unit”</b>	A unit composed of well-trained personnel and equipped with equipment suitable for the rapid performance of search-and-rescue operations.
<b>“Coordination”</b>	Combining SAR structures and elements, to ensure efficient search and rescue response. A SAR unit should always have overall coordination responsibility and other structures should work with this unit to provide the best possible response with the resources available.
<b>“Scene”</b>	Search Area or the area where rescue operations are to be conducted.
<b>“On Scene Coordinator”</b>	A person assigned to coordinate search and rescue operations within a specified area.
<b>“Search and Rescue coordinating communications”</b>	Necessary communications for the coordination of structures participating in a search and rescue operation. kërkim-shpëtimi.
<b>TIA’s area of responsibility</b>	The area of applicability of the Aerodrome emergency as a result of an emergency occurring at an aerodrome or in its surroundings in accordance with the provisions of the Airport Emergency Plan and Regulation No. 170/2022.

## Article 1

### Object of the Memorandum

The object of this Memorandum is mutual recognition of obligations and facilitation of joint procedures of coordination and cooperation in the management of SAR operations, and the necessity of their implementation in case of operation request in TIA’s area of responsibility, for the Search and Rescue of human life.

## Article 2

### Term

- 2.1 The term of this Memorandum shall start on the latest date of its signature by both Parties, and shall be effective for a 3 (three) years-period.
- 2.2 The Memorandum may be terminated at any time by either Party. Such termination of the Memorandum shall be effective at the moment that one Party notifies the other Party respectively in written form 3 (three) months in advance, in the event that the said notification for termination of the Memorandum has not been withdrawn/cancelled with the approval of the Parties before the end of the this period.

## Article 3

### Rights and Obligations of both Parties

#### 3.1 NSARC's Responsibilities

- Coordinates at the highest national level the Search and Rescue operations in land, sea and inland waters of the Republic of Albania.
- Coordinates the Search and Rescue coordinating communications with TIA, during the conduct of search and rescue operations, in accordance with the legislation adopted for the search and rescue service in the Republic of Albania.
- It is a national contact point for search and rescue operations. It cooperates with state institutions, private entities and international organizations, as well as is responsible for national and international obligations in the field of search and rescue in areas of responsibility.
- Assists and coordinates actions with TIA authorities in the event of an incident within the area of responsibility of the airport, in compliance with the terms and responsibilities defined in the Airport Emergency Plan, for the purpose of coordinating search and rescue service operations within the Area.
- Participates in joint exercises organized by TIA in the framework of search and rescue service operations.
- Notifies TIA in the event of any SAR operation performed outside the airport perimeter fence and within the TIA's area of responsibility.
- At TIA's request, coordinates the operational capacities of the Search and Rescue service related to aircrafts that are in distress, and in case of accident or incident directs the necessary rescue unit as soon as possible to the occurrence site, upon coordination with TIA authorities.
- NSARC must have clear information available at all times regarding the Search and Rescue Region.
- Manages and Coordinates Search and Rescue Units in SAR operations in the vicinity of TIA's area of responsibility. In case of investigations, it cooperates



with TIA and the competent national and international authorities for the purpose of exchanging the collected data.

### **3.2 Tirana International Airport's (TIA) Responsibilities.**

- In the event of a search-and-rescue incident in its area of responsibility , TIA will implement the Airport Emergency Plan.
- In the event of a search-and-rescue incident within its area of responsibility, coordination and operational control of the incident shall be undertaken by TIA authorities.
- Coordinates with NSARC to activate on its part operational capacities in case of a Search and Rescue incident in its area of responsibility from the surrounding perimeter of the airport.
- In case of investigation of a search and rescue incident, cooperates and exchanges the collected data with NSARC and the competent national and international authorities.
- Participates in joint exercises organized by NSARC after being notified by the latter
- In the event of any SAR Operation, within the boundaries of TIA's area of responsibility, TIA shall support the NSARC by providing its capacities, at the request of the latter.
- In the event of a search-and-rescue incident in the vicinity of TIA's area of responsibility, TIA shall maintain contact with the On-Scene Coordinator.
- Creates a database for each search and rescue case in its area of responsibility.
- Shares information with the NSARC on SAR capacity that TIA has.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Cooperation**

Parties will put the best endeavours to cooperate and fulfil their obligations under the Memorandum, with all due care and diligence and in accordance with the requirements of the Concession Law and Albanian and international standards and recommendations.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Force Majeure**

Neither TIA nor NSARC shall be responsible for any failure or delay in the performance of the Memorandum for reasons of Force Majeure. It is specifically agreed that causes of Force Majeure are acceptable only to establish delays with the proportional prolongation of the time schedule and not as a basis for compensating either party.

#### **Article 6**

##### **Transfer of Rights**

Parties shall not, directly or indirectly, assign, delegate or otherwise transfer any right or obligation under this Memorandum or any interest therein or claim hereunder, in whole or

in part, without the prior written consent of either Party (TIA and NSARC), and any attempted assignment without said written consent shall be null and void and of no force and effect.

#### **Article 7**

##### **Amendments**

The Memorandum constitutes the entire understanding of the Parties and no terms, conditions, understanding or agreement purporting to modify the terms of the Memorandum shall be binding unless made in writing and signed by both Parties.

#### **Article 8**

##### **Entirety of the Memorandum**

The Memorandum shall be interpreted by considering its terms and conditions as an entirety. In any case, any clause or wording that may create uncertainty must be viewed in the context of entire Memorandum and in the view of the purposes that caused Parties to enter into the Memorandum.

#### **Article 9**

##### **Notification and Communications**

Any notification, application or communication under or in connection with this Memorandum shall be made in writing. Daily communications under this Memorandum will be made in English and Albanian.

Any notification, application or communication shall be made in writing and delivered in person or by mail or via facsimile to the following addresses:

##### **TIRANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SHPK**

Tirana International Airport "Nënë Tereza",  
Administration Building, Rinas, Shqipëri  
Mr. Piervittorio Farabbi  
Chief Operating Officer  
Email: [pfarabbi@tirana-airport.com](mailto:pfarabbi@tirana-airport.com)  
Tel: +355 4 2381 580 ose  
Cel. +355 69 700 2616

Mr. Ermir Kaci  
Airport Operation Department Director  
Email: [ekaci@tirana-airport.com](mailto:ekaci@tirana-airport.com)  
Tel: +355 42381700 or +355 42381600

For emergency situations, also at the following address:  
Operation Duty Manager





Email: odm@@tirana-airport.com

Cel: +355 69 202 2005

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**NATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE CENTER**  
"Rruga e Dibrës" Tiranë  
Building of the General Staff of the Armed Forces  
Mob: +355 68 804 6638  
Tel: +355 42 24 0081  
Fax: +355 42 24 0087  
E-mail: [nsarc@aaf.mil.al](mailto:nsarc@aaf.mil.al)

### **Article 10**

#### **Confidentiality**

Each Party shall take all necessary liability precautions to protect information obtained under this Memorandum from unauthorized disclosure. The Parties agree to protect, to the extent required by applicable law, their respective rules and regulations, information received from the other Party.

The parties are obliged to respect the Confidentiality article even after the end of this Memorandum.

### **Article 11**

#### **Final Provisions**

- 11.1 All documents, if any, previously exchanged between them as well as any discussion and agreements previously held and concluded between them, which have not been set forth in the Memorandum, are considered void and of no legal effect whatsoever and shall in no way be taken into consideration in the implementation of the terms of this Memorandum.
- 11.2 This Memorandum constitutes the final written expression of all its terms and conditions, and is a complete and exclusive statement of these terms and conditions.
- 11.3 All section headings used in this Memorandum are solely for convenience and shall not affect the interpretation of this Memorandum.
- 11.4 No amendment, addition, or other variation of this Memorandum shall be effective unless it is in written form, makes a specific reference to the Memorandum and is signed by the duly authorized representatives of each Party hereto.



- 11.5 The Memorandum is drafted in English and Albanian language, two original copies for each language for each party. In case of discrepancy between languages the Albanian version shall prevail.

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date of its signing by both Parties.

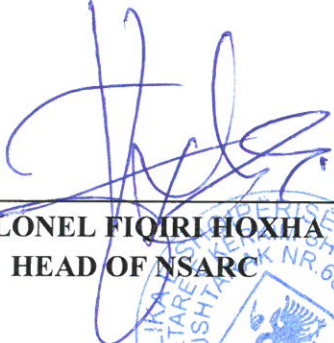
Tirana, on 27 / 03 /2024

**FOR TIRANA INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT SHPK**

**FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

(Referred to Authorization of the  
Minister of Defence Prot.no. 1484  
dated 29.03.2023)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**PIERVITTORIO FARABBI  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**COLONEL FIQIRI HOXHA  
HEAD OF NSARC**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**MARSIDA PALLKO  
ADMINISTRATOR**

