

TopSky plugin for EuroScope

- version 2.3 -

Coordination

EuroScope | power of control

General

The TopSky plugin provides various ways to coordinate information between controllers. Some of them are standard EuroScope features, while others are plugin-specific.

This document goes through the available coordination functions and how to recognize and use them. The example track labels do not represent any specific setup and are only meant to highlight the items specific to each function. The colors used are the default colors for plugin types **A** on the left and **B** on the right. In the examples, aircraft ABC123 is assumed by “transferring controller” and the next sector is referred to as “accepting controller”. For reference, the example labels would look like these before any coordination (coordination point “OLDPT”, entry/exit level FL180):

Transferring controller:

ABC123 IDA 100 ^ OLDPT 180	ABC123 IDA 100 ^ OLDPT 180
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Accepting controller:

ABC123 IDT 100 ^ OLDPT 180	ABC123 IDT 100 ^ OLDPT 180
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Most of the coordination functions display information in the track labels, but it is good practice to keep at least the **Message In Window** (incoming coordination messages) and preferably also the **Message Out Window** (outgoing coordination messages) open. They are found in the “ControlTools” or “Tools” menu, depending on the plugin version.

Coordination-related plugin windows and menus are shown in this document with bold text. For more information on them, refer to the General part of the plugin manual set.

Some of the coordination functions (ROF, RTI and TIP) require very specific conditions to exist to be able to send the necessary messages between the controllers. The plugin attempts to check for this and either disables the function (grey text in the menu button) or creates a warning message if the conditions are lost during a coordination, but in some cases the coordination messages can get lost. In this case try the coordination again or revert to other methods (text chat, intercom, etc.).

1 PEL / COPN

A coordination is displayed by coloring the proposed values “Proposition In/Out” (depending on whether the coordination was sent or received) in the track label and the flight lists. Additionally, a message is displayed in the **Message In Window** for received coordinations and in the **Message Out Window** for coordinations sent by you.

To send a PEL (Planned Entry Level) coordination, left-click on the PEL value in the track label or a flight list. This opens a menu to select a value. To send a COPN (Entry Point) coordination, left-click on the COPN value in the track label or a flight list. This opens the Waypoint menu. Select “Routing”. This opens a menu to select the desired point. Keep an eye for the answer as it can be a counter-proposal as well, so the color of the values staying white doesn’t necessarily mean the coordination hasn’t been answered!

An example track label, showing both the PEL and COPN being coordinated:



To answer an incoming coordination, left-click on a proposed value or the corresponding message in the **Message In Window**. This opens a menu where you can select the response (Accept, Refuse or Change). After the response, the track label and lists display depend on the answer:

- Accept: accepted values, sector state color
- Refuse: original values, sector state color (due to EuroScope bug, should be “Warning”)
- Change: new proposed values in “Proposition Out”

2 XFL / COPX

A coordination is displayed by coloring the proposed values “Proposition In/Out” (depending on whether the coordination was sent or received) in the track label and the flight lists. Additionally, a message is displayed in the **Message In Window** for received coordinations and in the **Message Out Window** for coordinations sent by you.

To send an XFL (Exit Flight Level) coordination, left-click on the XFL value in the track label or a flight list. This opens a menu to select a value. To send a COPX (Exit Point) coordination, left-click on the COPX value in the track label or a flight list. This opens the Waypoint menu. Select “Routing”. This opens a menu to select the desired point. Keep an eye for the answer as it can be a counter-proposal as well, so the color of the values staying white doesn’t necessarily mean the coordination hasn’t been answered!

An example track label, showing both the XFL and COPX being coordinated:

ABC123	IDA	ABC123	IDA
100	^ OLDPT	100	^ OLDPT
180	200	180	200

To answer an incoming coordination, left-click on a proposed value or the corresponding message in the **Message In Window**. This opens a menu where you can select the response (Accept, Refuse or Change). After the response, the track label and lists display depend on the answer:

- Accept: accepted values, sector state color
- Refuse: original values, sector state color (due to EuroScope bug, should be “Warning”)
- Change: new proposed values in “Proposition Out”

3 Releases

A “release” is an authorization for the accepting unit to climb, descend or turn (by not more than 45°) a specific aircraft before the transfer of control.

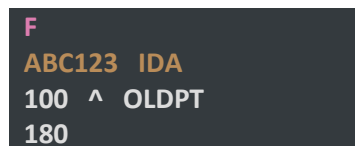
Release conditions can be specified in documents such as LoA, or they can be coordinated between controllers. One way of communicating a release to the next controller is to select the “Trf & release” option instead of “Transfer” in the Callsign menu when transferring the aircraft. This opens a menu to select the desired release condition. The available choices are “Climb”, “Descent”, “Turn” and “Full”. Selecting an option will start the transfer with the selected release condition.

The release will be displayed on line 0 of the track label (in “Proposition In/Out” during the transfer), showing the first letter of the release condition. The example labels below show a Full release:

Transferring controller:

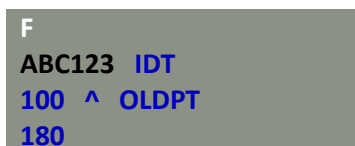


F
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180

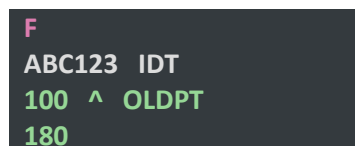


F
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180

Accepting controller:



F
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180



F
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180

After the accepting controller assumes the aircraft, the release indicator changes to sector state color. It remains in the transferring controller’s label until it becomes *unconcerned*, and in the accepting controller’s label for 3 minutes.

Note: if a release is sent to a controller not using the TopSky plugin, it will only be displayed on your label. To the accepting controller it will look like a normal transfer.

4 HOP

The purpose of the HOP (Hand-Over Proposal) message is for the transferring controller to propose the flight for hand-over to the accepting controller, and/or to propose non-standard transfer conditions which require the approval of the accepting controller.

To send a HOP without any transfer conditions, select the “HOP” option in the Callsign menu.

To send a HOP with a transfer condition (assigned heading, direct-to point or assigned speed):

- 1) open the AHDG or ASP menu and select the “HOP” option (found in the “More” folder)
- 2) select the desired value (to select a direct-to point, select the “Point” option in the AHDG menu and then left-click on the point on the radar screen)

The example labels below show a HOP with an assigned heading proposal:

Transferring controller:

- SI item and any proposed values in “Proposition Out” color
- Message in **Message Out Window**

ABC123 IDA	ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT	100 ^ OLDPT
180	180
H360	H360

Accepting controller:

- Callsign item and any proposed values in “Proposition In” color
- Message in **Message In Window**

ABC123 IDT	ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT	100 ^ OLDPT
180	180
H360	H360

The transferring controller should keep an eye on both the track label and the **Message In Window** as there are three ways for the accepting controller to answer a HOP. In order of preference, they are:

- From the Callsign menu, select “ROF”. This sends a ROF message to the transferring controller.
 - o See chapter [ROF](#) for indications
- Left-click on the AHDG, ASP or COPN item. This opens the **Combined Transfer Menu**. In it, select “Accept”. This sends an Accept message to the transferring controller.
 - o The labels on both controllers’ screens return to normal sector state coloring
 - o A message is put into the **Message In Window** for the transferring controller
 - o A message is put into the **Message Out Window** for the accepting controller
- From the Callsign menu, select “Assume”. This assumes the aircraft (with the other two answers the aircraft remains assumed by the transferring controller)
 - o The labels on both controllers’ screens return to normal sector state coloring

Note: if a HOP is sent to a controller not using the TopSky plugin, it will only be displayed on your label. To the accepting controller it will look like a normal transfer. Any proposed values will be shown also on the accepting controller's label but they will not be colored as proposals.

Note: if a HOP is sent to a manually selected controller and is answered by either "Accept" or "ROF", the next controller is reset to the automatically calculated one. The correct controller needs to be manually selected again before transferring the aircraft.

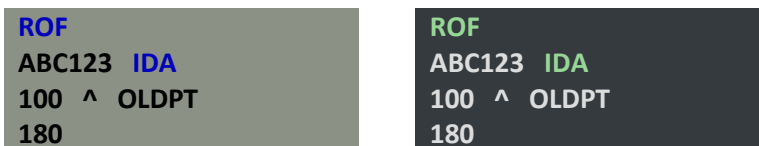
5 ROF

The ROF (Request on Frequency) message is sent by the accepting controller to the transferring controller, when required, requesting the transferring controller to instruct the aircraft to change to the frequency of the accepting controller. The message may be used as a reply to HOP to signify the acceptance of the flight under the proposed conditions, or to request the early transfer of the flight.

To send a ROF message, select the “ROF” option in the Callsign menu of the aircraft in question. The example label below shows the indications when the message is sent (there are no indications in the accepting controller’s track label):

Transferring controller:

- ROF text in “Coordination” color
- Message in **Message In Window**



Accepting controller:

- Message in **Message Out Window**

The indications are removed when a “Transfer”, “Trf & release” or “HOP” is performed.

Note: if a ROF is sent to a controller not using the TopSky plugin or the message fails to go through, an error message will be put into the **Personal Queue Window**. The message counter in the Global Menu will be highlighted in “Warning” color if the window is not open.

6 RTI / TIP

These messages are used to request/propose the transfer of a flight on an assigned heading, speed or rate of climb/descent. RTI (Request Tactical Instructions) is a request initiated by the accepting controller and TIP (Tactical Instructions Proposal) a proposal initiated by the transferring controller.

In the examples below the RTI message is used. For the TIP message, the indications and actions are the same, only the roles are reversed – the transferring controller sends and the accepting controller answers the message, so the “Proposition” color used will be the other one, and the message will appear in the other Message Window.

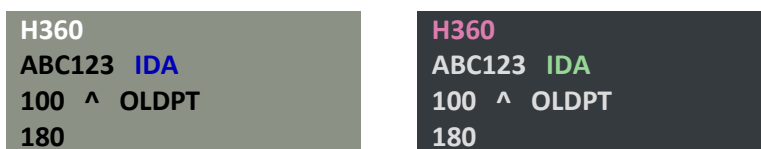
To send the RTI message:

- 1) open the AHDG, ASP or ARC menu and select the “RTI” option (found in the “More” folder)
- 2) select the desired value in the list (the “Point” option in the AHDG menu can’t be chosen)

When the message is sent, the following indications are shown:

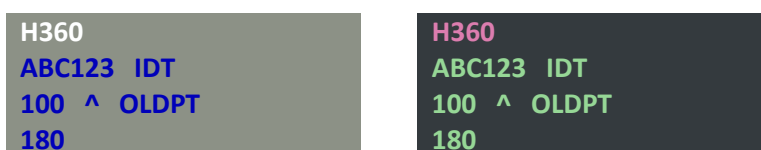
Transferring controller:

- Proposed value in “Proposition In” color
- Message in **Message In Window**



Accepting controller:

- Proposed value in “Proposition Out” color
- Message in **Message Out Window**



To answer the message, left-click on the proposed value on line 0. This opens the **Tactical Transfer menu** where you can either accept or reject the proposal. When clicking on “Accept”, the menu closes and the following indications are displayed:

Transferring controller:

- Accepted value in sector state color
- Relevant label field value in “Information” color (until the accepted value is set)
- Message in **Message Out Window**

```
H360
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180
AHDG
```

```
H360
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180
AHDG
```

Accepting controller:

- Accepted value in sector state color
- Relevant label field value in “Information” color (until the accepted value is set)
- Message in **Message In Window**

```
H360
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180
AHDG
```

```
H360
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180
AHDG
```

When the accepted value has been set (either by going back to the Tactical Transfer menu and selecting “Apply” or setting the value some other way), the label field returns to the sector state color.

On the other hand, if “Reject” is chosen, the menu closes the indications are as follows:

Transferring controller:

- Rejected value in “Warning” color
- Message in **Message Out Window**

```
H360
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180
```

```
H360
ABC123 IDA
100 ^ OLDPT
180
```

Accepting controller:

- Rejected value in “Warning” color
- Message in **Message In Window**

```
H360
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180
```

```
H360
ABC123 IDT
100 ^ OLDPT
180
```

A rejected coordination value will be removed from the label after a specified time (60 seconds by default).

Note: if an RTI or TIP is sent to a controller not using the TopSky plugin or the message fails to go through, an error message will be put into the **Personal Queue Window**. The message counter in the Global Menu will be highlighted if the window is not open.

Coordinating more than one value

It is possible to coordinate more than one value, either before or after the previous proposal has been answered. It is important to note that the label field on line 0 will only show the last proposal or answer. Regardless of this, all the relevant label fields will have the “Information” color for accepted but not yet set values.

For example, if you send an RTI with AHDG 360 (as in the above example) and then send another with ASP 300 (either immediately or after the first coordination is answered), the label field on line 0 will only show the ASP proposal. When opening the **Tactical Transfer menu**, all the proposals and accepted values are shown. If more than one proposal is active, clicking on “Accept” or “Reject” will send the same answer to all of them. Therefore, it is recommended to wait for an answer until sending another proposal unless the intention of the proposal is to get “all or nothing”.