



FORTY-SECOND PLENARY (TRIENNIAL) SESSION

(Strasbourg, 9-10 July 2024)

Agenda item 3: Presentation of President's triennial report

ECAC PRESIDENT'S TRIENNIAL REPORT 2022-2024

(Presented by Alessio Quaranta, ECAC President)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the Presidential report on the main ECAC achievements and external relations activities during the triennium 2022-2024.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

The Plenary Session is invited to note the content of the Presidential report for the activities undertaken during the triennium 2022-2024.

Introduction

1. This paper presents the Presidential report on the main ECAC achievements and on activities in the field of external relations activities during the triennium 2022-2024.

Support to Member States

2. The current triennium has been marked by the war in Ukraine following the invasion by the Russian Federation in February 2022. The impact on the Ukrainian civil aviation sector, and on colleagues from the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine (SAAU), the Air Navigation Service Provider (UKATSE) and the industry has been devastating. All European organisations have been providing political, financial and operational support to Ukraine, and are committed to continue as long as the current situation continues, as well as for the reconstruction and recovery of the Ukrainian civil aviation sector after the war.

3. In addition to political support provided to the colleagues in the SAAU, ECAC has provided financial support through the settlement of Ukraine assessment to ICAO in 2022, 2023 and 2024, and to the ECAC budget from its Special Reserve Fund. One of the main challenges faced by Ukrainian colleagues in the absence of civil aviation operations at Ukrainian airports, is maintaining knowledge and competencies of staff. ECAC continues to organise meetings online/hybrid to enable Ukrainian experts to participate, and organised in 2023 two on-site activities for security experts in Poland thanks to the support of the Polish civil aviation authority. Additional activities will be organised in 2024.

4. The current triennium has seen the strengthening of support activities provided to ECAC Member States through the provision of capacity building in the fields of security, facilitation and environment. For example, a new programme has been launched on Quality Assessment on the assistance provided to persons with reduced mobility and persons with disabilities. The Aviation Security Capacity-Building Programme has expanded with new activities, and thirty-nine Member States have benefited from one or more activities since 2022. On environment matters, the capacity-building programme not only aims to support States in their efforts to deliver their environmental obligations such as State Action Plans for emissions reductions or CORSIA implementation, but also aims to further promote the development of environmental expertise in the civil aviation authorities of all ECAC Member States, so that they are as well prepared as possible to respond and meet the various challenges associated with sustainable aviation. Both webinars and on-site targeted capacity-building activities have been organised to this end.

Convention on the Secretariat of the Conference

5. Following the legal and administrative separation of ECAC in August 2020, ECAC has continued its work during the current triennium regarding the legal status of the organisation. Having explored different options, considering the advantages and disadvantages of each, Directors General in August 2022 requested the task group on ECAC's legal status (LEGS) to develop proposals for a draft Convention for the ECAC Secretariat, and consequential draft amendments to the ECAC Constitution. LEGS is continuing its work for the preparation of documentation in advance of the Diplomatic Conference, and preparatory meetings are organised in 2024 to prepare for this Conference.

6. In September 2023, the 41st ECAC Plenary Session adopted the Resolution on the organisation and convening of a Diplomatic Conference at a date to be set in December 2023 (DGCA/161, 7 December 2023) for the adoption of a legal framework for the Secretariat of the European Civil Aviation Conference, the "Convention on the Secretariat of the European Civil Aviation Conference". Preparatory meetings have been organised in

2024 to finalise the draft convention, and the Diplomatic Conference is scheduled to take place in the first part of 2025.

Implementation of ECAC-EUROCONTROL Agreement

7. During this triennium, annual meetings have been organised between the Director General of EUROCONTROL and the ECAC President and Executive Secretary to review the practical implementation of the 2020 ECAC-EUROCONTROL Agreement on the provision by EUROCONTROL of administrative services to ECAC, and bring forward any adjustments. While preserving the independence of ECAC, of its governance and management, and of its activities, this Agreement has been an extremely valuable example on how EUROCONTROL supports European aviation. ECAC is grateful to EUROCONTROL for its continuous support.

Contribution of ECAC Member States to ICAO activities

8. In accordance with the ECAC Constitution, one of ECAC's objectives is to maintain close relations with ICAO to support the aims of the Chicago Convention. This relationship has continued to be implemented through close contacts with ICAO (e.g. contributions to the works of various ICAO Panels) and through an increased and more effective coordination of ECAC Member States' contributions to ICAO activities (for instance at the 41st Assembly).

9. In particular, a closer relationship has been established between Directors General of ECAC and the European members on the ICAO Council, through presentations to DGCA meetings, access to ECAC documents, information sharing, etc. Additionally, the ECAC Secretariat, together with the European Commission, supports the coordination of European experts and provides support to the European members on the ICAO Council, to the extent required.

10. The coordination of ECAC Member States for the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly and for other high-level ICAO events such as CAAF/3 in November 2023 has proved to be very effective and will continue for upcoming events (e.g. 14th Air Navigation Conference in August-September 2024). This coordination encompasses the preparation of European papers, exchanges with other regional organisations and bilateral partners, coordination during the events, and relevant follow-up actions. Among the European contributions to the Assembly, fifteen papers were presented on topics ranging from climate financing to resilience in public health crises, with further papers jointly presented with Partner States or co-sponsored.

Elections to the ICAO Council 2022

11. As in the past, Europe has continued to be represented in the ICAO Council by eight ECAC Member States. The eight European candidates elected during the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly in September/October 2022 were France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Austria (ABIS rotation group), Iceland (NORDICAO rotation group) and Romania (CERG rotation group). As is customary, the list of European candidates for the 2022 elections to the ICAO Council was communicated and promoted with ECAC's sister regional organisations, ACAO, AFCAC and LACAC, as part of our close cooperation and coordination, and in accordance with the *status quo* principle.

12. At the same time, ECAC acknowledged that the increase in the number of ICAO Member States and the significant air transport development in certain regions was raising a demand for an increase in the representation of certain regions in the ICAO Council and the Air Navigation Commission (ANC). This demand will continue to increase for forthcoming Council elections. Therefore, ECAC Member States supported the amendment to Article 50 a) of the Chicago Convention with the objective of increasing the number of

Council Members from 36 to 40 and the amendment to Article 56 of the Chicago Convention with the objective of increasing the number of ANC members from 19 to 21. The ratification process by ECAC Member States is well advanced with 41 ECAC Member States having ratified the Protocols. Support was also offered to share ECAC experience in ratifying the Protocols with its counterparts in sister regional organisations.

External relations

Relations with the European aviation organisations

13. ECAC continues to maintain very fruitful relations with the European Commission and other European aviation organisations, namely EASA, EUROCONTROL. In particular, all the European coordination groups established for the preparation of ICAO events are co-chaired by one representative of ECAC and one from the European Commission.

14. Cooperation with the European Commission in the field of aviation security continues on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement signed in December 2012, and is characterised by cross-participation in meetings and close cooperation on priority topics such as the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment. During the present triennium, ECAC has been entrusted by the European Commission with the implementation of the CASE II Project (Civil Aviation Security in Africa, the Middle East).

15. On environment topics, cooperation with EUROCONTROL and EASA has continued to develop. ECAC Secretariat and EUROCONTROL have cooperated to develop and update an online European map on sustainable aviation fuels, and the creation of a common section for State Action Plans is being developed in a harmonised way with EASA's European Aviation Environmental Report, in order to maximise the synergies of these related areas of work and avoid duplication.

Relations with other regional organisations and ECAC's bilateral partners

16. Relations with sister regional organisations (ACAO, AFCAC, LACAC) were strengthened through regular contacts, meetings and exchange of documents: notably, several bilateral meetings were held before and in the margins of the 41st ICAO Assembly. These meetings provided opportunities for an exchange of views on the main topics on the ICAO Assembly agenda and strategic cooperation between the organisations on domains of common interest.

17. Since February 2023, the Presidents, supported by the directors of the organisations of all four regional organisations, have agreed to meet on a regular basis to discuss topics such as ICAO Council elections, ratification of Protocols amending the Chicago Convention, and cooperation on ICAO events. The first meeting was held in Paris (ECAC) in February 2023, the second in Dubai (ACAO) in November 2023 and the third in Kigali (AFCAC) in June 2024.

18. The relations between ECAC and the other regional and sub-regional organisations, i.e. ACAO, AFCAC, LACAC, and WAEMU, continue to be excellent. The coordination before ICAO high-level events, the exchange of information, the participation in reciprocal events and the joint organisation of events (e.g. workshops under the security CASE II Project) form part of these close relations.

19. Similarly, ECAC continues to have an excellent relationship with the United States' government authorities, organising regular meetings between the Coordinating Committee and the US authorities that normally include the State Department, the

Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration.

20. Relations with other key international Partner States with whom ECAC has either a Memorandum of Understanding or a Cooperation Agreement (e.g. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Malaysia) remain fruitful and foster the exchange of information on areas of common interest such as ICAO matters, security, accidents investigations and economic matters.

21. Based on the 2019 ECAC-ACI EUROPE cooperation agreement, the main areas of cooperation include sharing information in the economic domain, discussion on issues related to supporting and facilitating the passenger experience (e.g. passengers with reduced mobility), enhancing cooperation in airport-related security matters, and promoting ECAC's Environmental Programme and the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme developed by ACI EUROPE.

Other initiatives undertaken by ECAC during the 2022-2024 triennium

22. Following the amendments adopted by the 40th Special Plenary Session of ECAC on 15 December 2021, Member States adopted an amendment to the ECAC Constitution and Rules of Procedure (ECAC.CEAC DOC NO. 20, 10th edition, December 2021) reflecting the creation of a new role of Focal Point for Diversity and Inclusion and inserting the relevant Terms of Reference during the 41st Special Plenary Session on 8 September 2023.

23. Several initiatives were taken to standardise procedures, such as for the management of contribution in arrears, the Terms of Reference and Rule of Procedure, which were adopted for the first time ever in 2024. Access to documents online has also been improved for Directors General.

24. In 2024 the Secretariat has started the digitalisation of all ECAC paper archives going back to the creation of the organisation in 1955, based on criteria agreed by Directors General in 2023. Given the significant volume of documents to be scanned and archived, work is still in progress.

25. Among the many other initiatives undertaken by ECAC during the 2022-2024 triennium, it is worth mentioning the ECAC/EU Dialogue with the air transport industry "Flying sustainably — from buzz to reality" organised in October 2023, and the ECAC Forum "Out of crisis: new normal or back to capacity crunch?" held in December 2022.

26. Finally, positions within the ECAC Secretariat are regularly reviewed to ensure that the job descriptions still meet the need of the organisation, and the Secretariat is more agile to respond to the evolving needs of Member States and to efficiently ensure the implementation of the work programme. In addition, secondments of national experts from ECAC Member States take place on a regular basis, with secondees from States including North Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina during this triennium, giving national experts the opportunity to develop their skills and competencies in an international environment and ECAC an opportunity to benefit from the experience of a national expert.

Action to be taken

27. The Plenary Session is invited to note the content of the Presidential report for the activities undertaken during the triennium 2022-2024.