



COVID-19

COVID-19: European coordination continues at ECAC

8 and 26 April — Two European coordination meetings were hosted by ECAC in April for Directors General of ECAC Member States, DG MOVE, EASA and EUROCONTROL to discuss developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on aviation.

The participants heard the latest updates on the traffic situation, noting some marginal improvements although figures were still approximately 65% down compared to the same period in 2019. They noted that other regions, in particular the markets in the United States and China, were doing much better due to their domestic traffic. Improving traffic scenarios for the summer depended heavily on the lifting of restrictions and on providing certainty to the industry and passengers for the summer season. A key focus of the discussions was on the need for a common approach to work towards an orderly return to safe travel, particularly in the summer period.

Participants shared information on the roll-out of their national vaccination



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programmes, and heard about the EU initiative for a Digital Green Certificate to facilitate safe free movement inside the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is expected to be in place for the summer season.

On economic matters, ECAC presented a summary analysis of the survey on economic and financial relief measures, and a revised version of the *Key elements on economic matters for supporting the aviation sector* document.

Guest speakers from ACI EUROPE and IATA joined the meeting on 26 April. They offered an update on the challenges faced by the industry, their needs, and initiatives, and welcomed the opportunity to engage in discussions with the Directors General. ■

SAFETY

European safety experts consider papers for the ICAO High-Level Conference

22 April — The status of preparations for the ICAO High-Level Conference on COVID-19 was on the table for discussion at the 20th meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG). The participants took note that the final version of the agenda would be sent with a State Letter in May 2021, although the format of the event (virtual or hybrid) had still to be determined. The meeting reviewed and com-

mented the possible European papers in the field of safety for the conference on the following issues: remote oversight, strengthening the resilience of aviation through the improvement of its crisis management framework, and the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP). ESANCG aims to finalise the draft papers by the end of May 2021, following the discussions at the next meeting of Directors General, on 5 May. ■

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Environment experts draft revised ECAC/EU guidelines on submitting State action plans for CO₂ emissions reduction to ICAO

7 and 13 April — The ECAC/EU Action Plans for Emissions Reduction Task Group (APERTG) finished drafting a revised 2021 edition of the ECAC/EU guidelines to promote the European approach for updating States' action plans for CO₂ emissions reduction from international aviation, at their meetings in April.

The group has been working since December 2020 on revising the guidelines, which aim to support ECAC Member States in submitting their action plans to ICAO by the end of June 2021, in accordance with ICAO Resolution A40-18.

The updated guidelines include a revised common European CO₂ baseline and forecast results taking into consideration the COVID-19 air traffic disruption, as well as an update of the different measures implemented collectively in ECAC Member States to reduce fuel use and related CO₂ emissions from international aviation.



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Second information seminar on State action plans to address CO₂ emissions from aviation

27 April — The draft revised 2021 edition of the ECAC/EU guidelines for European action plans prepared by the APERTG Task Group was presented to the European Focal Points on State Action Plans and to experts from EAEG Expanded at the second ECAC Environmental State Action Plans Information Seminar, held in April. The participants noted that APERTG's proposed updates to the previous (2018) edition, which at the time of the seminar were under review by EAEG Expanded, include an adjusted European baseline scenario up to 2050 and a revised description of measures implemented collectively in Europe.

The purpose of these information seminars is to recall the recommended common European approach for the submission to ICAO of updated action plans for CO₂ emissions reduction from international aviation. This second seminar, which assembled over 50 experts, was delivered in the framework of the ECAC Environment Forum in close cooperation with ICAO EUR/NAT, and provided participants with clarification to support ECAC Member States in updating the common and national sections of their respective action plans in accordance with ICAO guidance material. The event strengthens the cooperation between ICAO EUR/NAT and ECAC in the environment field and is expected to be followed by another seminar in June.

European Aviation and Environment Working Group reviews CAEP work

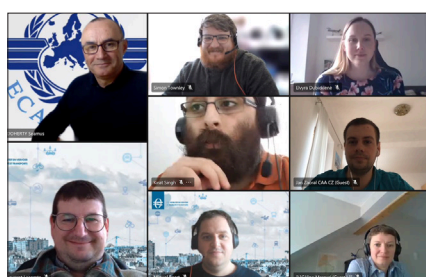
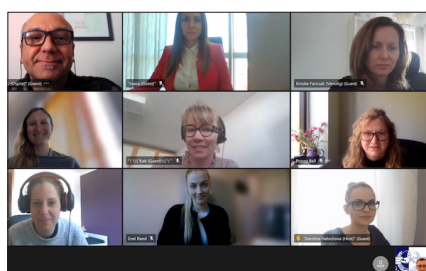
14-15 April — At its 37th meeting, the European Aviation and Environment Group (EAEG) made plans to strengthen the expertise of CAEP by nominating additional experts in areas of need, and looked forward to the challenges of the 3rd Steering Group meeting of CAEP/12 (5-16 July 2021). The group reviewed the status of work in CAEP on a wider range of subjects, including noise, supersonic air transport, emissions, long-term aviation goal, CORSIA, aviation fuels, modelling and database, forecast and economic assessment, airport and operations, impact and science. The next EAEG meetings will be on 19 and 20 May 2021, with EAEG meeting in its expanded format on 19 May. ■



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Two Basic Aviation Security Training courses in April

6-8 April and 12-14 April — The ECAC Secretariat delivered two virtual Basic Aviation Security Training courses to experts from 12 Member States this month, following a high number of nominations by States. Combining virtual presentations with theoretical exercises, the courses provided participants with an understanding of the history of civil aviation security, the threats and likely methods of attack, as well as the role of risk management in addressing such threats. Particular attention was paid to the role and responsibilities of the Appropriate Authority in the aviation security system. The training also looked at key aviation security measures and security technologies used for screening. To meet the needs of all Member States, additional training courses will be organised later this year.



New training course on cyber security for national auditors

21-23 April — A new virtual Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (Basic) training course was developed and delivered by the ECAC Secretariat to national inspectors from the Belgian civil aviation authority. The participants learnt about cyber threats to civil aviation and the basic theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to conduct national compliance monitoring activities in the field of civil aviation cyber security. The course looked

at the international and European (ECAC/EU) requirements and recommendations in the field, common cyber threats to civil aviation, the key players and their critical systems and data, basic principles of information security management systems, as well as cyber security organisational and protection measures. Best practices for inspecting cyber security measures in civil aviation were also shared with all participants.

New webinars on insider risks for HR managers

19 and 20 April — Following the recent series of ECAC webinars on insider risks and security culture organised for all ECAC Member States, two new webinars on insider risks were held for human resources (HR) managers from Cyprus and Iceland on 19 and 20 April respectively.

The webinars were delivered on a one-to-one basis and brought together HR managers from the Appropriate Authority and regulated entities (airports, air carriers, handling

agents and regulated agents) with aviation security managers, to promote awareness and good practices on how to address insider risks. Particular attention was paid to the role of HR processes in addressing the threat of insiders. The HR managers acquired an understanding of insiders from an aviation security perspective, and how they could contribute to insider risk mitigation. Additional webinars will be organised later this year for other Member States.

CEP Management Group boosts quality control

27-28 April — Common rules on private data collection exercises performed by Participating Test Centres, based on implemented best practices, were agreed at the 49th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment Management Group. The meeting reviewed the key elements to be included in the post-test debrief content and agreed to improve the quality of information provided to manufacturers, also with a view to standardising that information. A series of actions focusing on the continuous quality improvement of the CEP was also approved,

and the meeting took advantage of the ease in travel restrictions in several Member States to increase the number of tests allocated for various types of equipment over the coming months. The management group also considered the preliminary analysis of the replies received to the survey on the evolution of the CEP, which will form the basis of its work programme for 2022-2024. Another survey will be sent in the coming months to gather feedback and inputs from the industry.

EaP/CA workshop on security culture



28-29 April — Key elements of security culture were discussed virtually by more than 20 security experts, including industry representatives, from Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Ukraine at a workshop on security culture organised by ECAC under the EU-funded and EASA/ECAC-implemented Eastern Partnership and Central Asia (EaP/CA) Project.

Combining presentations delivered by experienced speakers with virtual breakout sessions, the workshop offered participants the opportunity to share their knowledge, experiences and best practices for promoting and effectively implementing security culture at national and organisational levels. Participants also brainstormed on the potential benefits of implementing security culture and on measuring the level of security culture in an organisation.

Speakers and participants both recognised the value of the workshop and agreed that cooperation at international, national and organisational levels is one of the critical elements contributing to the establishment of a robust and resilient security culture in aviation. ■

COVID-19 and health issues high on the Facilitation Working Group meeting agenda

13-14 April — Health issues and COVID-19 were the focus of discussions at the two-day meeting of the Facilitation Working Group. Updates on ongoing work and initiatives in their respective organisations were provided by the contact point on health matters (Johan Skäl, Finland) and representatives of the European Commission and IATA.

On matters relating to passengers with reduced mobility (PRMs), the participants discussed a proposal for principles on PRM charges, and they agreed that the meeting with experts on PRM assistance, and the workshop at the end of the year, should focus on COVID-19-related matters. On immigration issues, they explored the question of air carrier liability, which has become more relevant during the crisis and the proliferation of health documents needed to travel. They agreed that it was premature to take action yet as work was ongoing at ICAO level, and that they would come back to the topic after the next ICAO Facilitation Panel meeting (FALP/12, 13-23 July 2021).

The proposed amendment to ECAC Doc 30, Part I on PRM matters in Annex-5A - Hidden disabilities, and the revisions related to service animals and on immigration matters, reflecting the latest Amendment 28 to ICAO Annex 9 on Passenger Name Record (PNR) data and the ICAO Public Key Directory, were approved.

The annual surveys on PRM complaints, API/PNR, air carrier liability and biometric/ABC systems were launched following their approval at the meeting. Participants also heard updates on cargo and customs issues from the contact point for this topic (Roel van't Veld, Netherlands) and on the recent cooperation with the Guidance Material Task Force and the outcomes of their joint meetings. ■

First CASE II Project workshop



22 April — The CASE II Project is an EU-funded project implemented by ECAC and the follow-up to the CASE Project, which was completed in 2020. Its main purpose is to contribute to strengthening aviation security by delivering aviation security capacity-building activities in Partner States across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

The first workshop of the CASE II Project was jointly organised with the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and focused on the implications of COVID-19 for aviation security. This virtual event was well attended with 107 registered participants representing 33 Partner States from across Africa. Through a series of presentations, the first of two sessions introduced industry representatives from Africa and Europe who provided their perspective of the impact of COVID-19 on aviation security operations. The second session focused on the aviation security response to the pandemic and provided insight and guidance covering both strategic and operational themes from three European speakers. The workshop has received plaudits from attendees and it is hoped that this success will be followed by many more for the CASE II Project. ■

What's on in May?



Meetings in May are organised virtually

- 4/ 5th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation matters (ECG-FAL/5)
- 5/ 156th meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/156)
- 11-12/ 52nd meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/52)
- 19 & 26/ 40th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (Parts I and II) (CYBER/40)
- 19/ 38th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group - Expanded (EAEG/38-Expanded)
- 20/ 38th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/38)
- 20-21/ 47th meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/47)
- 26/ 8th meeting of the European Coordination Group for Aviation Security Matters (ECG-AS/8)
- 26-27/ 34th meeting of the EAEG Aircraft Noise Modelling Task Group (AIRMOD/34)
- 27-28/ 32nd meeting of the Security Forum (SF/32)



Our mission is the promotion of the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system

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