



ECACNEWSPPOINT # 06

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

United States' authorities and ECAC Coordinating Committee discuss strategic cooperation

3-4 June — The ECAC Coordinating Committee's meeting with senior US officials made progress on a wide range of issues of strategic cooperation. Among the matters discussed on which common ground was explored and cooperation proposed were responses to the COVID-19 crisis, objectives for a long-term aviation goal for climate change and other environmental objectives, current and

future aviation security technologies, priorities for ICAO and responses to the incident affecting Ryanair flight 4978 over Belarus. The meeting began with remarks from FAA Administrator Steve Dickson, who emphasised the importance of the transatlantic relationship, gave a brief update on key FAA programmes and highlighted his vision for the agency. ■



ECAC and US delegations, 3-4 June 2021



MEMBER STATES

Introduction to ECAC for Member States

8-9 June — Launched in 2011, the Familiarisation Course for ECAC's Directors General continues to provide insightful information to newly appointed Directors General of Civil Aviation and their colleagues working on ECAC-related matters on ECAC's history, structure and activities, and how the organisation functions. The 9th edition of the course was held virtually over two half-days. On day one, the participants learned more about ECAC's mission,

history and administrative procedures (such as voting procedures), as well as its structure, functioning and financial management. Day two presented an overview of the strategic priorities in all of ECAC's domains of activity, including ECAC engagement with ICAO and external relations. The course was also a great opportunity for Member State representatives to meet members of the ECAC Secretariat. ■

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Jon Gunnar Jonsson, Director General of the Icelandic Transport Authority (ICETRA), who attended the course, said:

"This course is very comprehensive and covers topics to help understand ECAC's roles and responsibilities in aviation. The section on the structure and functioning of the organisation provided a matrix of extensive operation and involvement by Member States in several fields. This overview is very important for new members of the ECAC family."

European coordination on latest travel developments

22 June — Directors General of ECAC Member States and representatives of DG MOVE, EASA and EUROCONTROL met virtually in June for their regular coordination meeting to discuss the latest developments surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Director General of EUROCONTROL provided updates on the traffic situation, which was finally showing an upward trend and pointing towards a resumption of travel activities for the summer season. The gradual lifting of travel restrictions in many Member States, together with an increased number of vaccinated persons, confirmed the demand for travel. The participants voiced some concerns, however, over the multiplication of checkpoints for health and travel documents. They welcomed the updated EASA/ECDC COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol published on 17 June 2021 and urged States to follow the recommendations, which include granting certain exemptions to vaccinated persons (such as from testing and quarantine requirements) and the need to have a single checkpoint for health and travel documents at departure.

Participants shared information on the latest travel requirements and were given a briefing on ICAO matters, including on the latest ICAO Council discussion, the CART's planned work and preparations for the High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC2021) to be held in October 2021. ■

First ECAC and ICAO EUR/NAT activity on State Action Plans to address CO₂ emissions from aviation

15 June — ECAC joined forces with the ICAO EUR/NAT regional office to host an activity on State Action Plans (SAP) to address CO₂ emissions from aviation, a topic of common interest to both organisations.

ECAC informed the meeting that the 4th edition of the *ECAC/EU Guidelines for State Action Plans* had been issued following endorsement by ECAC Directors General on 2 June. This updated edition is consistent with ICAO guidance material and seeks to facilitate the harmonised submission to ICAO of the 44 ECAC Member States' Action Plans, preferably by the end of June as requested by ICAO Assembly Resolution A40-18.

Focal points from Member States provided information on progress made in updating their national action plans, their interactions with national stakeholders and the challenges faced collecting information during the pandemic.

Approximately 40 European SAP focal points appointed to ICAO joined the meeting, highlighting the fruitful cooperation between ICAO EUR/NAT and ECAC in the environmental field.

First ECAC familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment

23 June — As part of its new environmental capacity-building programme, ECAC has launched a series of monthly familiarisation webinars offering basic knowledge on aviation and the environment. The webinars primarily target civil aviation officials who have recently taken on responsibility for environmental matters as well as staff seeking to gain knowledge in one of ECAC's strategic priorities.

The webinars will feature participative sessions designed to provide a better understanding of aviation's local and global environmental impacts and the European and ICAO policies to minimise those impacts, and a better understanding of the existing discussions at European and global levels. As part of EUROCONTROL support to the ECAC Programme, the first event held on 23 June welcomed a presentation by guest speaker Marylin Bastin (EUROCONTROL) on the key principles of sustainable aviation.

Nearly 50 experts from 22 ECAC Member States are expected to participate in these webinars. The next in the series will be held on 8 July.

CAEP is the focus of discussions in the European Aviation and Environment Working Group in June

11, 15, 16, 24 June — The European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) held a series of meetings in June. **11 June** saw stakeholders from the European industry and environmental NGOs involved in the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) work programme exchange views on recent and future CAEP developments, and the main achievements and concerns.

On **15 June**, the EAEG (State representatives only) considered the following topics, which will be addressed at the 3rd Steering Group meeting of the CAEP/12 cycle (CAEP12SG2021): 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.

Future work for the CAEP/13 cycle was the focus of discussions by the group - restricted to CAEP members and observers this time - on **16 June**.

Still in the context of preparations for CAEP12SG2021, EAEG met on **24 June** to share views on the papers available for the meeting. ■

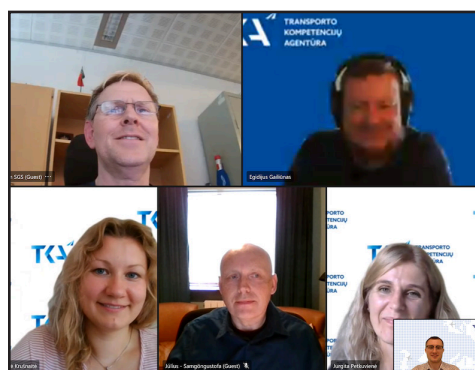
New Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 course

14-18 June — National auditors from Belgium, Lithuania and Montenegro took part in a Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 training course in June, following an update to the course material. The course was conducted virtually for the first time and combined theoretical presentations covering the role and authority of national auditors, inspection methodology and techniques, introduction to technology, compliance assessment, and reporting and stepped approach to rectification, with virtual activities designed to provide the participants with best practices for inspecting various areas of aviation security, including passenger and cabin baggage screening, hold baggage screening and protection.

This theoretical course will be completed by practical exercises at an airport to provide hands-on experience in conducting inspections using the recommended approach. These will be organised as soon as the travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted.



New best practices course on cyber security



28-30 June — National security inspectors and auditors from the Icelandic Transport Authority (ICETRA) and the Transport Competence Agency of Lithuania attended a Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (Basic) training course held virtually in June. This new ECAC training course was designed to strengthen participants' understanding of cyber threats to civil aviation and cyber security measures in aviation, in order to include this component in their national compliance monitoring activities.

Cyber threat actors, possible cyber-at-

tack scenarios on critical aviation systems and the key elements of cyber risk management were presented during the training. The participants acquired a basic understanding of cyber security organisational measures and the protection measures to be implemented by operators and entities to mitigate cyber risks. These included security by design, supply chain security, network separation and access control, amongst others. Particular attention was paid to inspecting these measures using the recommended approach. Two additional courses will be delivered in July and one in August.

Behaviour detection experts consider mentoring activities

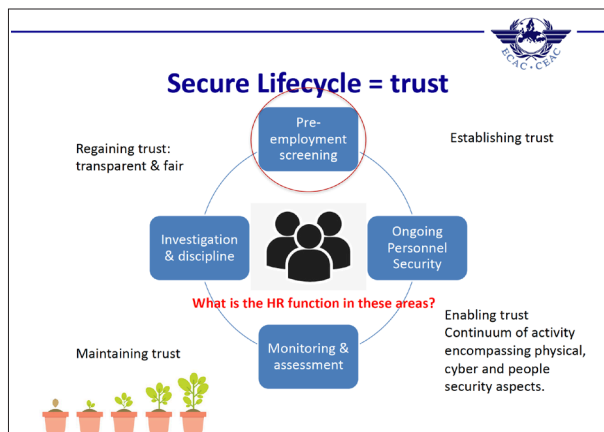
9-10 June — Much of the 29th meeting of the ECAC Behaviour Detection Study Group comprised a brainstorming session on how to improve the organisation and delivery of future mentoring activities on behaviour detection in aviation security. A draft scoping paper covering an overview of the main counter-measures to behavioural detection as well as best practices to address them, was also reviewed.

Having considered Poland's research progress on the use of artificial intelligence in behaviour detection, the study group discussed the content of the conference to be organised by ECAC virtually later this year on this topic.

Security experts prepare guidance material on screening using explosive detection dogs

16-17 June — The Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group examined progress being made on drafting guidance material on screening passengers and small vehicles using explosives detection dogs. The guidance on small vehicles is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2021. The group continued to draft guidance material on the selection, use and handling of target material. The meeting endorsed the "Auditor's aid for explosive detection dogs used to screen cargo and mail", which will now be reviewed by the group of ECAC certified aviation security auditors.

ECAC organises webinars on insider risks for HR managers



22, 23 and 24 June — ECAC continues to promote awareness and good practices on how to address insider risks in aviation security and improve security culture through the organisation of insider risk webinars. Three webinars were conducted for experts from Portugal, Poland and Ukraine on 22, 23 and 24 June respectively, with a focus on cooperation between security and HR staff.

The webinars offered the participants, from the Appropriate Authorities and from the industry, an opportunity to better understand the role of HR processes in mitigating the risks of insiders in aviation. All participants acknowledged the value of this new capacity-building activity in sharing knowledge, experience and best practices to mitigate the risks.

Security equipment manufacturers meet with CTMs developers

14, 15, 21, 22 and 23 June — The ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment Management Group organised a series of virtual information sessions in June to exchange with manufacturers on issues related to the various categories of aviation security equipment covered by the CEP. The five sessions brought together 68 participants representing manufacturers, members and observers of the CEP Management Group and the moderators of the ECAC Technical Task Force study groups responsible for developing ECAC Common Testing Methodologies (CTMs).

The sessions were designed to update the manufacturers on developments by each specialist study group, and allowed for ample discussion and exchange amongst all the participants. Topics covered included new performance standards and ECAC CTMs, and developments to reduce manufacturers' testing efforts - such as reducing the length of tests under certain conditions, parallel and modular testing and a draft tray equivalence protocol. The developments required for testing shoe metal and explosives detection equipment and the systems for automatic detection of prohibited articles (APIDS) in cabin baggage, were also discussed. ■

FACILITATION

Facilitation experts coordinate in preparation for upcoming meetings

1 June — The expectations and European priorities for the ICAO High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC2021, 12-22 October 2021) were the focus of discussions by the European Coordination Group on Facilitation at its recent meeting. As directed by ECAC Directors General, the group agreed on the tentative content of a European paper for the facilitation stream of the HLCC2021 covering the European experience and lessons learnt on crisis management. A draft European statement on accessibility and the rights to certain services for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility was also agreed for a possible contribution to the HLCC2021. The paper and statement are being considered in the ECAC-EU process. ■

ECONOMIC MATTERS

European coordination on economic matters

18 June — The European Coordination Group on Economic matters met to discuss among other issues the arrangements for the next formal meeting of the ICAO Air Transport Regulation Panel (ATRP), which is due to take place in spring 2022. The group also reviewed its preparations for the informal ATRP meeting on 29 June 2021, which addressed outstanding is-

ssues of concern relating to the draft ICAO Convention on Foreign Investment.

The meeting considered the next preparatory steps for the ICAO High-Level Conference on COVID (HLCC2021), including the draft European statement previously developed by the group to present to the plenary session. The statement highlights the

European priorities for the recovery and future resilience of the air transport sector, including operational flexibility, efforts in line with the ICAO long-term vision for international air transport liberalisation of market access, while considering environmental, social and labour issues as well as consumer protection. ■

European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group

8 June — The European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group was briefed on the status of preparations for the ICAO High-Level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC2021). The meeting reviewed and commented on the draft European working papers on the following issues: remote oversight, strengthening the resilience of aviation through improvement of its crisis management framework and enhancement of its flexibility regarding capacity provision, and the ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan. Papers for the HLCC2021 will become available in August, so the next ESANCG meeting will be held on 31 August 2021 to continue the preparation for the conference.

Air accident and incident investigators review 2020 occurrences, current priorities, and future actions

30 June — The latest developments and updates in accident investigation, and a review of 2020 accident and incident occurrences in ECAC Member States were the focus of discussion by ECAC's Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts (ACC) at their virtual meeting on 30 June. Observer organisations EASA, TSIB Singapore and BAGAIA briefed the meeting on developments and current priorities and activities in their organisations. ACC plans to hold a workshop on investigating unmanned aircraft systems accidents and incidents in Bratislava on 13-14 October 2021, dependent on COVID-19 developments. The next ACC meeting is scheduled to be held after the workshop, on 14 October. ■



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

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What's on in July?

Meetings in July are organised virtually unless indicated otherwise

- 1/ 41st meeting of the European Aviation Environment Working Group (EAEG/41)
- 1/ 7th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL/7)
- 5/ 1st meeting on Communication for Civil Aviation (COM/1)
- 6/ 79th meeting (Part II) of the Technical Task Force (TTF/79 - Part II)
- 7/ 33rd meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/33), Rome
- 8/ ECAC Environment Capacity-Building Programme monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment
- 8/ 8th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL/8)
- 12/ 39th Plenary (Triennial) Session of ECAC (ECAC/39)
- 13/ 191st meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/191)
- 15/ 3rd meeting of the ad hoc group on the legal status of ECAC (LEGS/3)
- 20-21/ 50th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment Management Group (CEP-MG/50)
- tbc 6th meeting of the Environmental Programme Management Group (EPMG/6)