



COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Committee members review outcomes of the ICAO Assembly and ECAC's strategic priorities

Paris / online, 3 November — At its first meeting after the ICAO Assembly, the ECAC Coordinating Committee reviewed the outcomes of the Assembly, and in particular the performance of European candidates in the ICAO Council elections and the process for establishing a list of European candidates for future elections.

Among other items in a busy meeting, the Committee made financial decisions on the future funding of the ECAC Common

Evaluation Process for security equipment, endorsed planned changes to travel rules, agreed to the organisation of a pilot workshop on diversity, and commissioned a proposal on ECAC work on sustainable aviation fuels to be brought to the meeting of Directors General in December 2022. ■

DIRECTORS GENERAL

Directors General review 2022 activities and future priorities at their end-of-year meeting

Paris, 7 December — Directors General of Civil Aviation gathered for their 159th meeting (DGCA/159) to analyse the main outcomes of the 41st ICAO Assembly, to discuss the preparations for the ICAO Council elections in 2025, to hear updates on recent European developments, and to review the status of implementation of ECAC's activities in the current year and the work priorities for the next year in the following domains: external relations, safety and accident investigations, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), aviation security, environment (including capacity-building activities), facilitation, economic, legal, communication, and diversity in civil aviation.

ECAC President Alessio Quaranta presented ECAC's activities on external relations, highlighting the outreach activities and relations with key international partners and sister regional organisations (ACAO, AFCAC, LACAC). The active involvement of observers (Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, United States) in various ECAC groups, especially on aviation security matters, was also mentioned.

Zdeněk Jelínek (DGCA Czech Republic) provided an update on the main achievements of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union,

focusing on activities related to aviation (e.g. ReFuelEU Aviation, CORSIA, EU emissions trading system (ETS) rules, work on a technical level on transport connectivity, and coordination during ICAO meetings), and Gunnar Ljungberg (DGCA Sweden) gave a presentation on the priorities for the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first semester of 2023.

Jeremie Teahan (EASA) briefed Directors General on the latest air traffic management regulatory and development activities and the European Aviation Environmental Report (EAER) published by EASA every three years. He also briefly presented the Annual Safety Review 2022.

EUROCONTROL General Director, Eamonn Brennan gave an update on the performance of the Network, including traffic volumes in 2022 and previsions for the evolution of air traffic in 2023. He also announced that the solidarity funds to support Member States affected by the war in Ukraine had been approved, and the process for participation had been launched, with an

establishment of funds effective on 15 December 2022.

The ECAC President thanked Mr Brennan for the continuous and valuable help and support offered to ECAC, and his commitment and determination to support European aviation no matter how many challenges were encountered along the way.

Directors General also expressed their appreciation and gratitude, and thanked Mr Brennan for his leadership, friendship and assistance provided to ECAC in the past years. They wished him the best in his future endeavours.

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Directors General convene in Paris to examine the aviation sector as it emerges from the crisis

Paris, 6 December — The latest session of the ECAC Forum of Directors General (FORUM/15) took place in Paris. This year's programme examined the aviation sector as it makes its way out of the crisis.

Over 90 participants and speakers from 34 ECAC Member States, the European Commission, EASA, ICAO, IATA, ACI EUROPE, Lot Polish Airlines, Leiden University, AerCap, Royal Schiphol Group and the United States' Federal Aviation Administration joined the session in person.

Opening the Forum, David McMillan, former EUROCONTROL Director General and former United Kingdom Director General for Civil Aviation, explored 2022 aviation trends of increased traffic that were dampened by service disruption and specific challenges faced by some stakeholders.

The first session, moderated by Elisabeth Landrichter, DGCA Austria and ECAC Focal Point for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, further explored 2022 trends and the root



causes within and external to the system. The Forum recognised that the industry is facing new challenges as it continues towards recovery and plans for the future. Both industry and regulators must learn from the experiences of the pandemic and summer 2022 events. There are lessons particularly on the importance of enhanced cooperation and transparency.

Piotr Samson, DGCA Poland and ECAC Focal Point for Safety, moderated the second session of the Forum on the aeropolitical landscape in the context of ICAO and the Chicago Convention framework. The Forum condemned recent breaches and urged States to stand

together behind international law for fair and consistent responses to current and future exceptional events. It was agreed, however, that the current aviation sector has undergone significant change since 2019, resulting in new pressures in some areas and justifying review of the current aviation framework.

The last session, moderated by Tânia Cardoso Simões, President of the Board of Directors of ANAC (Portugal), examined what is needed for the sector to achieve long-term sustainability and resilience. The Forum discussed the important roles that innovation and flexible processes play in supporting these aims. It looked at the impacts of new technology in the market – from newer aircraft systems to green propulsion aircraft types and digital analytical tools to enable predictive safety management systems. Forum participants agreed above all the vital need for effective regulation and enhanced cooperation to sustain the sector.

ECAC President Alessio Quaranta brought the Forum to a close by underlining the importance of finding practical ways through common solutions to support the industry in its recovery from the crisis and in the new challenges it faces. ■



FACILITATION

Progress in 2022, new facilitation work programme, and innovations in assistance to passengers with reduced mobility

Videoconference, 9-10 November — The Facilitation Working Group agreed on amendments to ECAC Doc 30 Part I — *Facilitation* related to call point signage at airports, finalised the content of a new survey on assistance dogs, and reviewed progress on other work as part of the process of agreeing a work programme for 2023. The new work programme will

draw some long-standing workstreams to a conclusion so that they can be turned into practical recommendations or so they can give way to new initiatives that will add more value. The group also agreed actions to be taken to mitigate some of the difficulties caused by new Passenger Name Record requirements from non-European States, and on

improving preparations for the impacts of the introduction of the EU Entry/Exit system. It also took presentations on some successful innovations on ensuring assistance for passengers with reduced mobility, including improved information systems for those requiring assistance. ■



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Joint ECAC/EU environment groups consider policy options to promote SAF and develop guidance

Videoconference, 1 and 15 December

— The members of the ad hoc ECAC/EU Sustainable Aviation Fuels Task Group (SAFTG) gathered for their 11th meeting on 1 December to consider the final review and endorsement of the ECAC/EU SAF guidance material that had been developed by the group from December 2021.

The group agreed to include a final section in the guidance summarising the key policy recommendations, and to incorporate an executive summary at the beginning of the document.

The draft guidance developed by the task group and delivered for consultation to EAEG (Expanded) on 12 December 2022 was then circulated for formal consultation to the members of EAEG (Expanded) on 14 December, and presented to facilitate its understanding and receive initial feedback at its 57th

meeting on 15 December. Final inputs are now being collected and the version that will be endorsed by EAEG in mid-January will be presented for approval to the Environment Programme Management Group (EPMG) in late January 2023 before being presented for endorsement to Directors General in February 2023 via written consultation.

The draft document was presented by the ECAC Secretariat together with Inmaculada Gomez Jimenez (Spain) in her capacity as SAFTG ECAC co-rapporteur and Mathilde Tannous (France), in her capacity as SAFTG member, who replied to questions from the EAEG members. Useful initial feedback was provided by the EAEG (Expanded) experts for consideration during the endorsement process.

European Aviation Environmental Report presented at the monthly aviation environment familiarisation webinar

Videoconference, 23 November — The 14th monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment was dedicated to a presentation of the 2022 edition of the [European Aviation Environmental Report \(EAER\)](#).

Prepared by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), with support from the European Environment Agency (EEA) and EUROCONTROL, the EAER, published on 21 September 2022, offers an overview of the current environmental performance of the aviation sector in the 27 EU Member States and the 4 Member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), informs on the latest scientific understanding of the aviation environmental impacts, and focuses on the main mitigation areas, providing recommendations on how to further improve performance.

Steve Arrowsmith, Chief Expert at EASA's Environmental Protection team, provided an outline of the report's background, structure and current content. The briefing was followed by open dialogue with the audience, who raised questions on different topics addressed by the report, such as air traffic management and operations performance, monitoring SAF use and approval of new SAF technologies in Europe.

Sixty-eight participants from ECAC Member States, organisations and stakeholders joined the webinar.

AFCAC and ECAC joint environment workshop on the ICAO long-term global aspirational goal

Videoconference, 29 November — A joint online environment workshop was organised within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and ECAC, and with the participation of ICAO's Eastern and Southern African (ESAF), European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) and Western and Central African (WACAF) offices, Hasselt University, the World Bank and representatives of African and European Member States.

This joint capacity-building activity took stock of the 41st ICAO Assembly's

environmental achievements. It looked in particular at the long-term global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation and its immediate implications for the development of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF). AFCAC addressed its short-term planned actions to address Assembly Resolution A41-21 on LTAG, while ECAC provided a presentation to facilitate the understanding of the net zero CO₂-emissions-by-2050 goal.

Invited speakers from the ICAO ESAF, EUR/NAT and WACAF offices addressed next steps and the short-term ICAO focus on

promoting SAF. Professor Robert Malina from Hasselt University and Megersa Abate from the World Bank jointly presented a recent report published by the World Bank: *The Role of Sustainable Aviation Fuels in Decarbonizing Air Transport: Challenges and Opportunities*.

This joint event attracted 106 participants and allowed for fruitful discussions and exchanges among aviation experts from both regions. ■

Exchange of views between regional security experts resumes at 7th Europe-Asia Pacific Aviation Security Forum



Singapore, 29-30 November — The 7th Europe-Asia Pacific Aviation Security Forum was held in Singapore, co-organised by ECAC and the Singapore Ministry of Transport. This Forum, held once every two years, marks the 15th year of excellent collaboration between ECAC and Singapore on aviation developments. The Forum was timely, convened in-person with the re-opening of borders previously closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic that severely impacted the global civil aviation industry.

Some 60 delegates from Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, comprising

regulators and industry representatives (airlines, airports, air cargo associations, international organisations, and others) participated actively in the Forum. They shared views, experiences and ideas over five sessions: threats to civil aviation and challenges faced by regulators in a post-pandemic world; challenges faced by airports in restoring aviation security operations; aviation security challenges faced by airlines as air travel recovers; readying aviation security for the future; and facilitating access to capacity-building activities.

Carla Pinto, Director of the Facilitation and Security Bureau at the Portuguese civil aviation authority, ANAC, and a

speaker at the Forum, offered her views on the event:

"The discussions held during these five sessions allowed all the participants to share best practices in approaching the challenges arising from the recovery process from the COVID pandemic. Common challenges were identified and widely discussed, and future solutions were analysed as a means to improve the civil aviation sector. Human factors and new technologies were the most-discussed issues, having in mind the rebuild of a more resilient civil aviation sector. Security and facilitation were also considered as the main pillars for the development of the sector."



Workshop on explosive detection dogs

Paris, 9-10 November — Over 30 policy officers, dog handlers, scientists, security inspectors and other specialists involved in the development and oversight of explosive detection dog (EDD) programmes joined the ECAC Workshop on Explosive Detection Dogs in Paris in November.

Held over two days, the main blocks of the programme covered training, certification and quality control, and screening in cargo operations, as well as allowing time for debate on future perspective areas of EDD deployment in an effort to make aviation more secure. Breakout sessions gave participants the opportunity for small group debates, with a choice of two



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topics: which types of cargo are suitable for EDD screening (and which cannot be screened), and brainstorming other possible areas for future deployment of EDD teams.

At the conclusion of the workshop, several proposals for the future work programme of the ECAC EDD Study Group were made. These included learning more about the United States' EDD programme and exploring possibilities to further harmonise EDD standards in both regions, and considering the possibility of EDD experts cooperating on EDD awareness for activities to be delivered under the CASE II Project.

Security equipment manufacturers meet with the ECAC CEP Management Group and testing methodologies developers

16, 22, 24, 25 November and 1 December — The 13th information session for security equipment manufacturers involved in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment held on 16 November brought together a total of 139 security specialists comprising 90 manufacturers and 49 members of ECAC's CEP Management Group and Technical Task Force.

This general information session allowed participants to review the evolution of the seven CEP test programmes and their developments in 2022. These included proposed implementation of the new explosive vapour detection (EVD) equipment testing programme, a new

CEP funding model, nine key performance indicators (to support the management of the CEP), and a new public website listing configurations whose performance standard has expired and the new test centre feedback process.

In addition, manufacturers were informed about the features of the CEP roadmap for the 2022-2024 triennium, adopted by Directors General at their Special meeting on 25-27 August 2022. The roadmap aims to further develop the CEP, enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and ensure it has the resources to deliver a professional, responsive, and world-leading equipment certification process for all stakeholders.

This session was followed from 22 November to 1 December by a series of four thematic videoconferences by type of equipment, where the moderators of each Technical Task Force study group exchanged with experts from equipment manufacturers on new performance standards and CEP Common Testing Methodologies. Topics covered included the implementation of the tray equivalence protocol in 2023, and the main features of the new Common Testing Methodologies for six types of equipment, including the new categories of EVD and Automated Prohibited Item Detection Systems (APIDS), which are in the approval process.

Security Forum meeting - focus on post-COVID staffing challenges in aviation security

Videoconference, 21 November — The ECAC Security Forum met for its second topical session of 2022, these sessions having been added to the regular programme of meetings. This session focused on discussions dedicated largely to post-COVID staffing issues in aviation security. Four speakers from government authorities and industry organisations presented the challenges they face with staff shortages and security staff's limited motivation to continue their jobs during the summer season. Views on the causes of the problems and measures to promote staff retention, motivation

and general better preparedness for similar crisis were exchanged during the meeting. Two main areas were considered for further elaboration: human-human interactions (management techniques, reconsideration of recent training, and quality control concepts) and human-machine interaction (extension of technologies to be used for repetitive activities currently performed by the screeners, concept of easier machine operation).

ECAC validates a new training course on risk management



Belgrade, 13-15 December — A Best Practices for Risk Management in Aviation Security pilot course was organised in Belgrade for eight aviation security experts from Serbia, with a contribution from an experienced instructor from Ireland. The course comprised two groups of modules: through a combination of theoretical training, discussions and table-top exercises, the core modules familiarised participants with existing and emerging threats to aviation, current trends and the risk management process, including an example of a risk assessment methodology.

The second group of modules presented best practices for establishing and implementing risk-based security oversight and assessing risks in different areas of aviation such as airport security, aircraft security, risks related to flights over and near conflict zones and risks posed by insiders and cyber threats. Attention was also paid to reviewing best practices for developing and implementing mitigating measures to effectively address identified threats, using a risk-based approach. ■

CASE II PROJECT

ECAC and AFCAC organise joint regional workshop on testing and certification of security equipment

Kigali, 23-24 November — The CASE II Project's fourth workshop collaboration with the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) saw the delivery of a regional workshop on the topic of testing and certification of security equipment hosted by the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority in Kigali. Over 100 participants from 47 AFCAC Member States attended the event and engaged with 12 expert speakers drawn from AFCAC and ECAC Member States, as well as one speaker from the United States' Transportation Security Administration, making it the largest workshop yet undertaken by the Project. The dialogue was very constructive, with active contributions and specific questions from the participants, and the Project has received consistently positive feedback from the participants present.

The main areas of focus were the development of the technical specifications and performance standards for security equipment; best practices in the procurement, maintenance, and inspection of security equipment; best practices for operational testing and on-site acceptance of aviation security equipment; and the latest developments in screening technologies. ■





Angela Lynch joins the ECAC Secretariat as a policy coordinator covering economics, facilitation, legal issues and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) after six years at the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority in its Strategy and Policy Department. Prior to that, Angela worked on international financial services policy and inward investment. At the UK CAA she developed experience of the aviation sector from a regulatory perspective, working most

recently in innovation policy covering developments in electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and advanced air mobility operations.

Angela looks forward to building on her international and aviation experience within ECAC and particularly to supporting the enhancement of aviation cooperation for the aviation sector and passengers in the dynamic fields of facilitation, economics and UAS. ■

ECAC Directors General celebrated International Civil Aviation Day on 7 December 2022. They reflected on the value of air transport to our economies and citizens and committed to support its sustainable recovery. ■



What's on in January?

- 11 1st meeting of the Steering Committee to prepare the 12th ECAC/EU Dialogue with the European air transport industry, online
- 17-18 57th meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/57), online
- 18 18th meeting of the EAEG Sustainable Aviation Fuels Task Group (SAFTG/12)
- 18-20 37th meeting of the Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group (EDD/37), online
- 25 15th Familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/15)
- 26-27 45th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/45), online



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