



EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ECAC President and Executive Secretary meet with sister regional organisations in Paris

Paris, 7 February — ECAC hosted the first-ever formal meeting of the leaders of all four regional civil aviation organisations, with the heads of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), and the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), joining ECAC President Alessio Quaranta, Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy and Deputy Executive Secretary Mark Rodmell in Paris on 7 February 2023.

The main objectives of this meeting were to strengthen relationships and cooperation among the sister civil aviation organisations and to agree on actions to support a safe, secure, and sustainable development of air transport in their respective regions and around the world, consistent with ICAO's strategic objectives.

The participants shared views and lessons learned on the main outcomes of the 41st session of the ICAO Assembly and on regions' ambitions for the ICAO Assembly in 2025. They also reiterated their commitment to the ratification of the two 2016 Protocols amending the Chicago Convention to increase the number of seats in the ICAO Council and Air Navigation Commission.

All participants acknowledged that strong partnership and collaboration were critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the aviation industry, and that by working together and sharing information and good practices, regional organisations could develop and implement effective strategies to support the recovery of air travel for the benefit of the economies and citizens in each region.

The meeting also agreed a series of joint activities for 2023, including cooperation on safety, security, capacity building in different areas of civil aviation, and exchange of best practices on air transport. ■



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ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force reviews developments in ECAC's activities

Videoconference, 15 February — The 65th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO) reviewed the currently applicable version of the ECAC Risk Register (May 2022) and agreed on a series of amendments that reflect the lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions in Europe and most regions, recent developments in ECAC activities, and the actions agreed by Directors General following the performance review of ECAC's working groups carried out mid-2022. The amended version of the risk register will be presented to the Coordinating Committee in April 2023.

Chaired by Bertrand de Lacombe (France), the task force also discussed the impact of the decisions taken by Directors General in August 2020 on the organisation of both online and in-person meetings of ECAC groups (e.g. increased Member State participation). They welcomed the cost-saving measures taken by the ECAC Secretariat since 2020. Finally, the task force took note of the timeline for the preparation and adoption of the ECAC 2025-2027 work programme and associated budget. ■

ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT regional workshop on assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families in Milan

Milan, 20 February — The joint ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT regional workshop on assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families brought together 80 aviation experts from 29 States to discuss effective ways to better address the needs of those impacted by aircraft accidents. The event was held on 20 February, the International Day Commemorating Air Crash Victims and their Families.

During the workshop, participants shared their insights and experiences on a range of topics related to aircraft accident victims' assistance. They discussed challenges and opportunities for enhancing existing support mechanisms, and shared best practices for providing immediate and long-term support to victims and their families. This included looking at: the implementation of national family assistance plans; enabling effective regional cooperation; the handling of media enquiries; and psychological and emotional support to aircraft accident victims and their families.

The workshop also focused on ways to improve coordination and communication between various stakeholders involved in responding to an aircraft accident, including airlines,

airports, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations, such as family associations. Participants explored the challenges of providing support in different cultural and linguistic contexts, as well as the importance of respecting the dignity and privacy of those affected.

The workshop was an important opportunity for aviation experts to share their knowledge and expertise and to learn from one another. The insights gained from the workshop will be used to take action to improve

the quality of assistance provided to aircraft accident victims and their families, both in Europe and beyond.

This joint ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT regional workshop is a significant step forward in improving the aviation industry's collective response to aircraft accidents. It demonstrates the commitment of States and industry to ensuring that those affected by aircraft accidents receive the best possible care and support. ■



Analysing the potential of sustainable aviation fuels of non-biological origin

Videoconference, 22 February — The 16th monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment focused on understanding the nature of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) of non-biological origin, such as e-fuels, and on analysing their potential to contribute to aviation's climate goals.

The ECAC Secretariat presented the different types of SAF that can fall under such categorisation, highlighting that, in addition to SAF made from biomass, SAF can also be produced using a large amount of energy and CO₂ as feedstock, either taken via direct air capture (DAC) or from industrial gases. Those types of fuels are commonly known as e-fuels, power-to-liquid, synthetic aviation fuels or other nomenclatures depending on different jurisdictions.

Guest speakers from the International Transport Forum (ITF) at the OECD presented the new ITF report, *The Potential of E-fuels to Decarbonise Ships and Aircraft*. The German PtX Lab Lausitz also

provided an overview of the current efforts to scale up sustainable synthetic kerosene (PtL) in Germany.

The webinar attracted 89 participants from ECAC Member States, organisations and stakeholders, and included a dynamic Q&A session. ■



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CEP implements testing of APIDS and EVD, extending the programme to nine categories of security equipment



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Videoconference, 8-9 February — The CEP Management Group, at its 56th meeting, chaired by Gael Weidmann (STAC, France), agreed on the allocation of test centres nominated by Member States to test two new categories of security equipment approved by Directors General: Automated Prohibited Item Detection Systems (APIDS) and explosive vapour detection (EVD). Testing of EVD and APIDS will be carried out at *Fraunhofer Institut für Chemische Technologie* – ICT (Germany) and The

Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research – TNO (Netherlands), and APIDS testing will also be carried out at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory – DSTL (United Kingdom), Federal Police Technology Centre – FPTC (Germany) and the *Service Technique de l'Aviation Civile* – STAC (France).

Other topics discussed at the meeting included finding a balance between the capacity at participating test centres for testing under the CEP and the requirements

for national testing, new rules for the dual-brand regime of the CEP, and enhancing the configuration management system of equipment found to meet an ECAC/EU performance standard.

The group also endorsed the final version of the harmonised protocols for explosive detection systems for cabin baggage (EDSCB) and liquid explosive detection systems (LEDS), which is expected to reduce the time required to deliver the test results.

First meeting of the Technical Task Force in 2023

Videoconference, 15-16 February — The members of the Technical Task Force (TTF) gathered for the first meeting of the year to summarise the outcomes of the group's 2022 activities and agree on a roadmap of tasks for 2023, as proposed by the TTF study groups. The work programme includes the development of new technology standards, other updates to Doc 30, Part II – *Security* in the technological field, and an update of the common testing methodologies used in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment. The group was also briefed by equipment manufacturers on their research and development achievements, focused on the possibilities of combined technology solutions for detecting prohibited items.

Behaviour detection experts discuss work programme

Videoconference, 22-23 February — The Behaviour Detection Study Group met to discuss progress made on completing the tasks under its 2023 work programme. Tasks discussed included drafting common standards for research into the effectiveness of behaviour detection programmes and the use of artificial intelligence in behaviour detection, best practices for red teaming in the field of behaviour detection, and mentoring activities with interested Member States on behaviour detection. The study group will also update an existing ECAC Aviation Security Handbook document on behaviour detection in aviation security in 2023.

The participants discussed the organisation of the 5th Research and Development Workshop, which will be held from 26 to 27 September 2023 in Paris. ■

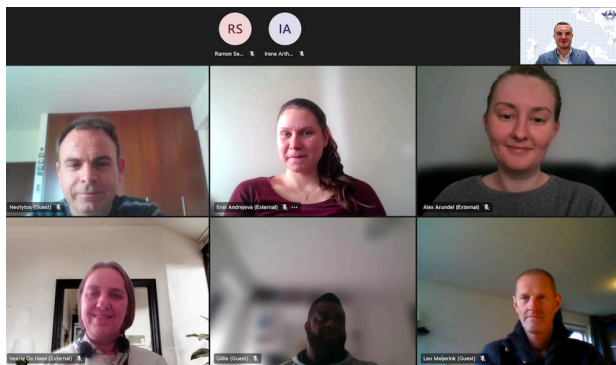
Basic Aviation Security Training for Member States

Videoconference, 15-17 February — An online Basic Aviation Security Training course presenting an overview of the key aviation security measures in ECAC Doc 30, Part II – Security, and the security technologies used for screening, was conducted by the ECAC Secretariat on 15-17 February for national auditors and other representatives of the appropriate authorities of Belgium, Estonia,

the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. A security expert from Cyprus contributed as an instructor.

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 were also reviewed. Participants also looked at the specific role and responsibilities of the appropriate authority and other entities involved in the aviation security system.

The ECAC Secretariat received a high number of nominations to attend the course; an additional course will therefore be organised in March 2023 to meet the needs expressed by Member States.



Cyber security training for national auditors in February

Videoconference, 7-9 February — National auditors from the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the Republic of Moldova attended a Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (basic) training course conducted online. The course reviewed ECAC Doc 30, Part II – Security recommendations for protecting critical aviation systems and data against cyber threats, and best practices for inspecting and auditing the implementation of the cyber security measures by regulated entities.

The participants also had the opportunity to learn about the common cyber threats to aviation, and scenarios of cyber attacks on critical aviation systems and data. ■

UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

Getting complex UAS operations off the ground: ECAC workshop on the implementation of U-space and electronic conspicuity

Paris, 13 February — An ECAC workshop on unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) brought experts together to examine latest developments and challenges in the fast-developing domain. The workshop was led by the ECAC Focal Point for Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Director General of Civil Aviation for Austria, Elisabeth Landrichter, and attended by points of contact from 11 Member States and from Europe Air Sports.

At the workshop, Member States shared information on developments within different States in the field of UAS. This highlighted recent U-space and other unmanned traffic management systems implementation, and the ongoing effort of States and

regulators to enable more complex UAS operations.

Workshop participants discussed the challenges for States, operators and potential U-space service providers in implementing existing regulations to allow UAS operations to develop in specific geographical areas with the use of electronic conspicuity and other technological components of U-space. The potential impact on the general aviation community and air traffic management of lower-level airspace was considered, where it was noted that the integration of UAS operations into airspace used by manned aviation raised questions around the potential change of existing rulesets for accessing the airspace. ■



ECAC takes actions on diversity and inclusion in civil aviation

Videoconference, 27-28 February — In response to requests from several Member States and as agreed by Directors General in December 2022, the ECAC Secretariat has launched capacity-building activities on diversity matters with the objective of promoting a better understanding of diversity and inclusion good practices in the work environment.

Among these initiatives is a diversity training course consisting of three

sessions that will be held online in February-March 2023 addressing topics on diversity, equity, inclusion and unconscious bias. The first session was organised on 27 February.

The ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation (NETD&I) also continued its activities with the second meeting taking place on 28 February. During this meeting, the participants shared information on specific diversity and inclusion initiatives in their

countries, finalised the proposal for the 2023 NETD&I work programme, and provided feedback on the first session of the ECAC training course on diversity, among other topics discussed.

ECAC's focus on promoting diversity and inclusion is an important step forward for civil aviation, creating a more inclusive and attractive air transport industry and thus also contributing to address the challenges faced by the sector. ■

What's on in March?



- 8-9 52nd meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/52), online
- 9 3rd ECAC Workshop on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ENV-SAF-WKSH/3), online
- 9 55th meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on Immigration (FAL-IMMIGRAT-SG/55), online
- 13 12th European coordination group on aviation security matters (ECG-AS/12), online
- 23 59th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/59), online
- 23 8th meeting of the Network of Chief Economists (NCE/8), Paris
- 24 15th meeting of the Economic Working Group (ECO/15), Paris
- 29 17th Familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/17), online
- 30 46th meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/46), online

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