COORDINATING COMMITTEE

ECAC Coordinating Committee meets in Paris

Paris/videoconference, 4 April — The Coordinating Committee dealt with a wide range of business including the implementation of the ECAC work programme in various domains, and administrative and external relations issues. It agreed to submit a range of items to Directors General, including the amended ECAC Risk Register, a proposal for application for observer status for ECAC at the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, and amendments to the ECAC-EUROCONTROL agreement on the provision of administrative services. It approved continued financial support to Ukraine, as well as noting the practical support in capacity building already being given by ECAC. It agreed on the work programme for ECAC's new workstream on diversity, equity and inclusion, and reviewed work relating to preparations for the 2025 ICAO Council elections. ■

FACILITATION

Aviation facilitation issues discussed at working group meeting in Paris

Paris, 13 April — The 65th meeting of the Facilitation Working Group was hosted by the French Directorate General of Civil Aviation at its offices in Paris. The meeting's wide-ranging agenda included reports from the facilitation sub-groups on the transport of persons with reduced mobility (PRM) and on immigration matters. States agreed to launch the latest PRM complaints survey in May, and noted significant work to be undertaken by the ad hoc study group on Doc 30 Part I — *Facilitation* to prepare a revised version for autumn 2023.
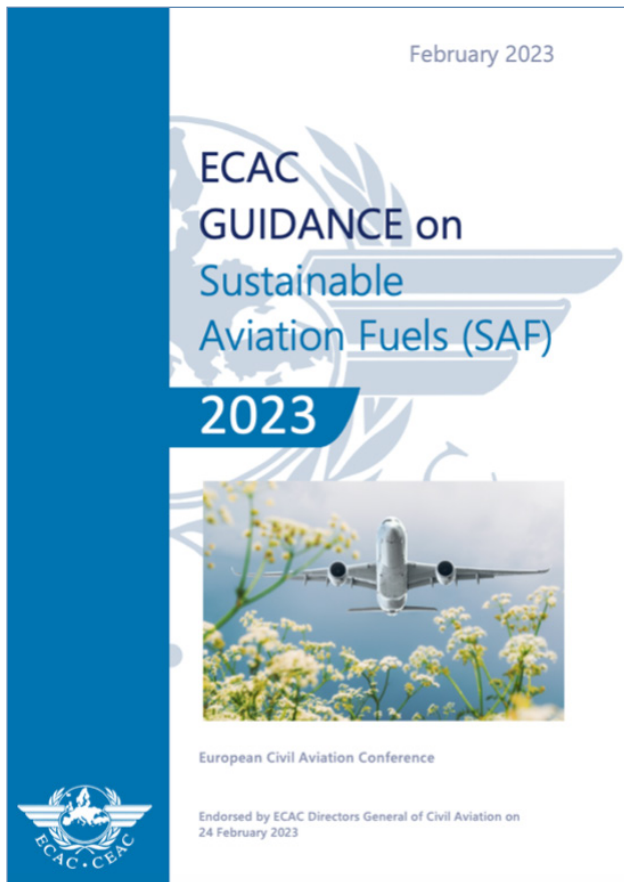
Exchanges were held on how ECAC can take action to enhance the support air accident victims and their families receive from States, and on understanding in more detail the challenges related to implementing regulations on the transport of assistance dogs. States and observers shared recent experiences in other areas of common interest, including ongoing planning for the EU Entry/Exit System, campaigns to address unruly passengers, and the ICAO audit process for national authorities.

Member States also began to plan potential support for the ICAO Year of Facilitation 2024, as an opportunity to showcase best practice initiatives under ECAC and its Member States. ■

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How to develop a national sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) roadmap

Videoconference, 26 April — The 18th monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment focused on understanding how to develop a national sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) roadmap based on ECAC guidance material and on case studies from individual European States.

The ECAC Secretariat presented the recommendations in this respect contained in the ECAC Guidance on Sustainable Aviation Fuels, which was published in February 2023.

Speakers from France and Switzerland presented practical examples of how they have developed national SAF strategies and roadmaps, highlighting the key challenges faced, objectives established, and the steps taken.

Boris Stolz, Scientific Associate at the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation, presented the recently launched Swiss Strategy, which promotes the development and use of SAF. He underlined how this process helped engage stakeholders and put SAF on the agenda of other key national actors.

Mathilde Tannous, Biofuels and EU-ETS Program Manager at the French DGCA, illustrated how the French roadmap for the deployment of SAF had been developed, and also underlined the importance of working with other government departments, such as energy and environment, to ensure a successful implementation of the roadmap.

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

CEP participating test centres coordinate ahead of the CEP Management Group meeting

Videoconference, 20 April — Representatives of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) participating test centres, the chair and deputy chair of the CEP Management Group, and the ECAC Secretariat met online ahead of the 57th meeting of the CEP Management Group scheduled on 3-4 May. Key issues discussed at the meeting included progress made on ongoing tests, and the test centres'

available capacity until the end of 2023. The participants noted that available capacity was sufficient to allow the CEP Management Group to allocate most of the tests already requested by manufacturers.

The participants also reviewed the advance planning schedule for several campaigns to test various types of equipment against new performance standards. Tests will include EDS (capable of detecting explosives contained in hold

baggage), ETD (capable of detecting traces of explosives on surfaces), EVD (capable of detecting vapour released by explosives materials, and APIDS (capable of detecting prohibited articles different from explosives contained in cabin baggage).

These coordination meetings will continue to be organised a few weeks ahead of each CEP Management Group meeting.

Guidance Material Task Force endorses new guidance material

Paris/videoconference, 26-27 April — The ECAC Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF) endorsed new guidance material on establishing an approved haulier regime for secure air cargo and mail, and a standard air carrier security programme template (updated Doc 30, Part II Annex) at its 58th meeting this month. The task force also discussed two new draft documents on technical innovations and advanced technologies in aviation security, and best practices for the certification or approval of security equipment, as well as nine updated Doc 30 Annexes and Aviation Security Handbook documents. All these documents will be finalised by mid-May through a written consultation procedure.

Having discussed policy and regulatory issues pertaining to cargo and mail security and recent changes to the EU aviation security legislation, the task force agreed to complete six additional tasks in

Participants joining the GMTF meeting at the ECAC offices in Paris

2023: to develop two new documents on a cargo security programme and on aviation security data retention, and to update four existing documents on cargo security, cabin baggage screening, security of in-flight and airport supplies.

ECAC Security Forum discusses aviation security policy priorities

Videoconference, 5-6 April — The Security Forum met online to review the achievements of ECAC's security groups in 2022, and progress on 2023 tasks. The participants were briefed on capacity-building activities as well as on the reopening of the ECAC aviation security audit programme. They welcomed a presentation from Iceland on the implementation of its national aviation cyber security oversight framework. The meeting also considered the performance of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment, and the participants agreed to organise an ad hoc workshop to discuss and propose policy changes to optimise the CEP and better accommodate the needs of all CEP stakeholders.

The Netherlands hosts training course for national auditors

Amsterdam, 3-7 April — A Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 (BPNA-1) training course was organised in Amsterdam, where two groups of modules were discussed: core modules introduced the participants to inspection methodology and techniques, assessment of compliance, debriefing, and report writing; the second group of modules focused on inspecting passenger and cabin baggage screening, hold baggage screening and protection, as well as passenger and baggage reconciliation.

The course was conducted by experienced aviation security instructors from the United Kingdom and the ECAC Secretariat, and was attended by national auditors from Albania, Denmark, North Macedonia, the Netherlands and Ukraine.

Second recurrent training and recertification of ECAC auditors

Paris, 12-13 April — The ECAC Secretariat organised the second Recurrent Training and Recertification of ECAC Auditors in the form of a workshop. The purpose of this activity was to confirm that auditors still possess the necessary knowledge and competencies, including knowledge of ECAC Doc 30, Part II — *Security* and the ECAC Audit Methodology, to participate in ECAC audits.

In a series of classroom activities and discussions, the auditors reviewed recent amendments to Doc 30, and developed a common understanding of new and amended Doc 30 recommendations. They also exchanged experiences and best practices in auditing Doc 30 recommendations with the aim of developing consistency in evaluating their implementation.

At the end of the workshop, the participants sat a series of written tests. The recertified auditors will be invited by the Secretariat to participate in security audits in the coming months, according to Member States' needs.

Depending on the requests received from Member States to participate in the audit programme in 2024, a training and certification session may be organised at the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024 for new auditors wishing to join the programme.

Attention was paid to reviewing the advantages and limitations of various screening methods and security technologies used for screening. Several classroom and airport activities enabled participants to strengthen their practical knowledge and skills in inspecting/auditing a range of security measures. ■

Security experts discuss challenges and best practices on recruitment, training and certification of screeners

Paris/videoconference, 18-19 April – More than 40 security experts from 25 ECAC Member States, including from the industry, participated in a workshop on recruitment, training and certification of screeners in a post-pandemic environment. For the first time, ECAC organised such an event in a hybrid format to meet the requests of several Member States wishing to join the workshop remotely for practical and cost-management reasons.

The workshop comprised five thematic sessions aimed at reviewing and discussing developments and challenges encountered in recruiting screeners, and their training and certification in the post-COVID environment. Participants shared their experiences from the pandemic period and return-to-normal operations, and shared lessons learnt and best practices for addressing the key challenges. Their discussions focused in particular on the changing role of cabin and hold baggage screeners using

screening technologies (EDS/EDSCB equipment, APID software), and the challenges and best practices in training and certifying screeners who interpret 3D x-ray images.

Participants acknowledged the need for careful consideration of human factor principles affecting a screener's performance, and for the proper selection of screeners and tailoring their training and certification according to the rapid technological changes in aviation security.

"It was great to see so many attendees, States and partners involved in the workshop, which saw interesting discussions, questions and experience-sharing on common challenges. This not only allowed the States present to consider different approaches for their own national systems but also highlighted the importance of future considerations around automation, human performance and human factors." – Nina Smith, workshop moderator (United Kingdom CAA and chair of the ECAC Training Task Force).

Participants attending on-site the workshop on recruitment, training and certification of screeners, ECAC offices

Training of national auditors on cyber security

Videoconference, 3-5 April — The ECAC Secretariat conducted the fourth Best Practices for National Auditors –

Cyber Security (basic) training course in April, with contributions from instructors from Germany and Poland.

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The course allowed national auditors from Sweden and Switzerland to develop their knowledge of cyber security measures aimed at protecting critical aviation systems and data from cyber threats. Specific measures examined included Information Security Management Systems, security by design, supply chain security, access control, control of software, cyber security culture and training, personnel security, cyber-attack detection and response.

There was a particular focus during the course on reviewing best practices for inspecting/auditing the key cyber security measures in aviation. Participants also looked at common cyber threats, and potential cyber-attack scenarios against aviation entities' critical systems and data. ∎

ACC Workshop on the treatment of serious incidents

Bratislava, 25 April — The treatment of serious incidents in civil aviation was the theme of the last ECAC Air Accident and Incident Investigation (ACC) workshop that brought together 80 participants from 29 States and 14 organisations, including ICAO, the European Commission, EASA, safety investigation authorities, operators and manufacturers.

The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform for participants to share their experiences and perspectives, and to develop best practices on the classification of serious incidents and make informed decisions on safety investigations.

In his opening address, Piotr Samson, President of the Civil Aviation Authority of Poland and ECAC Focal Point for Safety, emphasised the significant advancements in technology and safety that the aviation sector witnessed in the last decade. There have been many new technological developments (including drones and artificial intelligence), new types of aircraft have been introduced, and new safety regulations have been implemented. However, the need for aviation safety remained a top priority in the aviation industry.

During four workshop sessions, participants discussed eight case studies, and the importance of improving communication between the various stakeholders involved in safety investigations, as well as the need to facilitate data sharing and analysis to enhance the effectiveness of safety investigations. They also discussed the importance of applying a proactive approach to safety management, where incidents are viewed as opportunities to improve aviation safety. ◼

Participants in the ACC workshop in Bratislava

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

ECAC contributes to International Labour Organization technical meeting

Geneva/videoconference, 24-28 April — The International Labour Organization (ILO) held its technical meeting on a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector, bringing together representatives from governments, employers and workers. Held every ten years, this meeting is the opportunity to share information and proposals on the work conditions in the air transport sector and the impact of technological development and environmental actions on aviation jobs. ECAC Executive Secretary, Patricia Reverdy, made a general statement underlining the challenges the civil aviation sector faces notably as a result of climate change, technological advances and other drivers of change, and the actions that could be undertaken to promote decent and sustainable work in order to shape the future growth of the sector. ◼

What's on in May?

3-4	57th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process Management Group (CEP-MG/57), Pfinztal
5	4th meeting of the Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM/4), videoconference
11-12	53rd meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/53), Zurich/hybrid
16	13th meeting of the Aviation Security European Coordination Group (ECG-AS/13), Paris
17	5th meeting of the Cyber Security European Coordination Group (ECG-CS/5), Paris
23	160th meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/160), Paris
24	19th Familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/19), videoconference
24	1st Economic Working Group information sharing session (ECO-INFO/1), videoconference
30-31	27th meeting of the ECAC Coordinating Committee and the United States authorities (CC-US/27), Washington DC

COMING SOON

ECAC/EU DIALOGUE with the European air transport industry

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

Valencia, Spain, 24-25 October 2023

Keep an eye on the Dialogue website for information updates
https://ecac-ceac.org/events-and-meetings/upcoming-events

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