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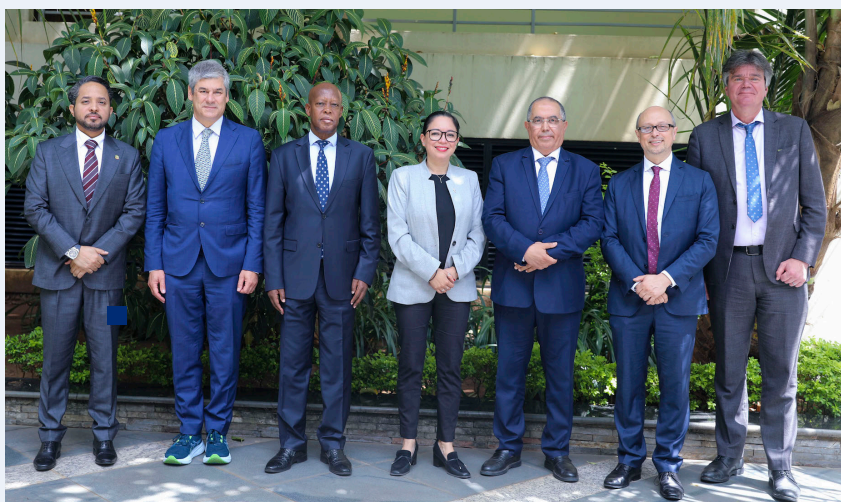
European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news

Strengthening cooperation with regional organisation leaders in Kigali

Kigali, 10 June — ECAC President Alessio Quaranta represented ECAC at the third meeting of civil aviation regional organisations, held in Kigali, along with representatives of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), and new Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) President, Ingrid Azucena Zelaya (DGCA Guatemala), who attended for the first time.

The organisations discussed practical approaches to cooperation ahead of global aviation events, agreeing to a pilot of consultation arrangements ahead of and during the 14th ICAO Air Navigation Conference in August and September this year.

All participants emphasised the need to maintain progress on the ratification of the Protocols expanding the ICAO

from the left: Saeed Al Suwaidi, Alessio Quaranta, Silas Udahemuka, Ingrid Azucena Zelaya, Abdennebi Manar, Jaime Binder, Mark Rodmell

Council and Air Navigation Commission, and committed to further action to promote ratifications in all regions. ■

Progress towards 2025 Diplomatic Conference

Paris, 6-7 June — ECAC held its first preparatory meeting for the 2025 Diplomatic Conference at the beginning of June, with a focus on establishing an international agreement for the Secretariat of the Conference. Attended by participants from 20 Member States, and the European Commission in an observer capacity, and chaired by ECAC

President Alessio Quaranta, the meeting reviewed the draft Convention on the Secretariat developed by the task group on ECAC's legal status (LEGS).

Participants engaged in thorough discussions, reaching consensus on several articles of the draft Convention, while debating others. The meeting also endorsed the provisional agenda and

the rules of procedure for the Diplomatic Conference, which is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2025. Concluding the meeting, participants committed to resolving the outstanding issues related to the draft Convention and to finalising preparations for the Diplomatic Conference at their next meeting in October. ■

Inside

EMTO finalises review of the ECAC Strategy for the Future

Rome, 20 June — The ECAC Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force, chaired by Karin Puleo-Leodolter (Austria), finalised its review and update of the *ECAC Strategy for the Future* during a recent meeting at the Italian civil aviation authority, ENAC, in Rome. The proposals for amendment, including the Quality Assessment Programme in the field of facilitation, the role of communication in promoting civil aviation, and diversity and inclusion, will be presented at the next ECAC Coordinating Committee meeting on 10 July 2024.

The task force continued discussions on the sustainable long-term financing of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment and will seek the CEP Management Group's views on various options during its next meeting in July.

Additionally, the task force agreed on a template for the terms of reference and rules of procedure for ECAC working groups. This template will serve as the reference document for harmonising the terms of reference of all groups in the coming months. ◼

New ECAC Threat Response Group

Paris, 11 June — The inaugural meeting of the ECAC Threat Response Group was held in Paris this month, marking the beginning of an initiative to develop more accurate and comprehensive threat lists. These lists will be submitted to the ECAC Technical Task Force and the Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group, which are responsible for defining performance standards for security equipment, aligned with the policy priorities set by the Security Forum.

The Threat Response Group will regularly review and update these threat lists to ensure their relevance and accuracy, particularly in response to security incidents or changes in the threat landscape.

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The meeting began with a welcome by the chair of the Security Forum, Eleanor Travers (Ireland), followed by a brief introduction session. Participants reviewed the group's terms of reference to ensure everyone was familiar with them. They then discussed the current threat lists, identifying gaps and inconsistencies with detection capabilities. Criteria for threat list updates were also considered.

ECAC Behaviour Detection Study Group advances mentoring and develops new security guidelines

Amsterdam/videoconference, 5-6 June — Progress in providing mentoring on behaviour detection to three ECAC Member States in 2024 was discussed at the recent meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group, held in Amsterdam at the beginning of June. The group aims to finalise new guidelines for mentoring in behaviour detection by the end of this summer to improve the ECAC mentoring process.

Additionally, the group reviewed progress on developing two new documents for the ECAC Aviation Security Handbook: guidelines for red teaming in the field of behaviour detection, and guidelines for effective interviewing and the role of the interviewer in behaviour detection. Both drafts will be finalised at the group's next meeting in September 2024.

Participants also agreed to organise a research and development workshop on innovations in behaviour detection training and recruitment in 2025, with the exact dates and venue to be confirmed at the next meeting.

ECAC contributes to TSA International Training Symposium

Las Vegas, 11 June — Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy represented ECAC at the third Transportation Security Administration (TSA) International Training Symposium, an event dedicated to exploring various aspects of training. The symposium attracted more than 150 participants from around the world, who gathered to share the latest developments, initiatives and good practices in training.

Ms Reverdy participated in the panel on sustainment, where she highlighted ECAC's experience in designing and delivering training and capacity-building activities for its Member and Partner States. The panel discussed good practices for maintaining and reinforcing the skills,

knowledge and behaviour acquired by staff during training. Key challenges in ensuring the long-term retention of the benefits of training – crucial for

sustained performance improvement and organisational growth – were a focal point of this stimulating panel discussion.

Training and certification of new aviation security auditors

Dublin, 12-18 June — For the first time since 2016, ECAC organised the training and certification of new ECAC aviation security auditors to meet the growing interest of Member States in ECAC audits. The training and certification were hosted by Ireland, which also provided two experienced ECAC auditors to deliver the training course.

The objective of this training was to standardise the working methods of future ECAC auditors, ensuring they meet the objectives of the ECAC Aviation Security Audit

Programme. It aimed to equip them with the necessary information and documentation for effective immersion into the Programme. Security auditors from seven Member States, the United States and the ECAC Secretariat participated, gaining practical auditing skills, knowledge of the Programme's methodology, procedures and tools, and a clear understanding of ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security) recommendations.

In addition to theoretical training, the course proposed several classroom activities and an exercise at Dublin Airport.

The training concluded with a certification session to confirm that candidates possessed the necessary skills and competencies to participate in the Programme. Several participants successfully completed the certification and have been qualified as ECAC auditors. They will be invited by the ECAC Secretariat to participate in future ECAC aviation security audits.

Technical Task Force reviews key security updates and 2024 agenda

Riga/videoconference, 13-14 June — The June meeting of the Technical Task Force featured key updates on recent national developments, the activities of the ad hoc group on cyber security aspects of screening equipment, and the group's new terms of reference and rules of procedure.

Chaired by newly appointed chair, Dorian de Carpentry (France), who assumed the position in April 2024, discussions also addressed outstanding deliverables from the 2023 work programme, including the development of updated security scanner standards and progress on the insertion of a new provision for chemicals (G1 standard) in the ECAC Common Testing Methodology of explosive trace detection. The meeting concluded with an outline of the next steps for implementation of its 2024 work programme. ■

EAEG-CAEP advances European preparation for upcoming ICAO meeting

Videoconference, 3 and 20 June — The European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) recently held meetings to advance European preparations for the third Steering Group meeting of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, which will take place at the EUROCONTROL premises in Brussels from 8 to 12 July 2024. During these meetings, the group identified key topics of interest for Europe necessitating the submission of working papers. The next meeting will be held remotely on 4 July 2024. ■

Network of Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation

Rome/videoconference, 21 June — The preliminary results of the second ECAC survey on diversity and inclusion, and the responses received from more than half of the ECAC Member States, were the focus of discussions at the 7th meeting of the Network of Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation. The group also shared information on recent activities organised in Member States to promote diversity and inclusion within the aviation sector.

The influence of artificial intelligence (AI) in diversity and inclusion was also a key topic considered. Participants discussed both its potential to reduce bias, as well as the risks of perpetuating biases if not carefully managed. Emphasis was placed on the importance of transparent AI systems, ethical practices and a high level of environmental protection as outlined in the European Parliament's AI Act. ■

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What's on in July?

2 & 4	61st meeting of the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment Management Group (CEP-MG/61), videoconference
4	72nd meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/72), videoconference
9-10	42nd Plenary (Triennial) Session (ECAC/42), Strasbourg
10	210th meeting of the ECAC Coordinating Committee, Strasbourg