



DIRECTORS GENERAL

Directors General attend annual Special meeting in Maastricht

Maastricht, 5-7 September — More than 90 participants from 36 Member States and observer organisations gathered in Maastricht for the annual Special meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation. Hosted jointly by Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, the event was opened by Frans Weekers, Secretary General of the Benelux Union, along with the Directors General of Civil Aviation from all three host countries.

A highlight of the first day was a session on “How was summer 2024 for you?”, opened by Raúl Medina, Director General of EUROCONTROL. Mr Medina gave a frank account of the air navigation challenges faced in Europe over the

summer. He emphasised the operational challenges, notably due to extreme weather disruptions, and the need for action from all parties to address the situation. Several ECAC Member States also shared their experiences, with air traffic control delays, labour disputes and weather-related disruptions all featuring to differing degrees across Europe during the summer season.

On the second day, a closed session was held, focusing on European priorities for the 42nd ICAO Assembly in 2025. Directors General engaged in a broad discussion aimed at guiding ECAC's groups in developing proposals to advance these priorities.

Other key topics included the proposed future participation of the United States in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment, and a decision in principle on changes to the funding model. Finally, updates were provided on European participation in the ICAO Committee on Aviation and Environmental Protection, whose 13th cycle will reach its conclusion in February 2025. The meeting also addressed the growing conversation around aviation's non-CO₂ impacts on climate change.

The meeting concluded extending thanks to the hosts for their warm hospitality. ■



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ECAC Coordinating Committee prepares for future work at Maastricht meeting

Maastricht, 4 September — In a meeting held the day before the Special meeting of ECAC's Directors General in Maastricht, the ECAC Coordinating Committee addressed several administrative matters shaping ECAC's future work.

The Committee agreed a template for terms of reference and rules of procedure for European coordination groups

and ECAC programme management groups, to complement that already in the process of being applied to all ECAC working groups. Decisions were also made regarding proposals to include new observers in certain security groups.

The provisional programme for the 2024 ECAC Forum (Forum/16, 17 December 2024) was approved, subject to some

additional adjustments. This year's Forum will have as its theme "Managing disruption in uncertain times". It will address all kinds of disruption keeping Directors General and senior officials awake at night, including disruptions from geopolitical situations and workforce shortages. ■

SECURITY

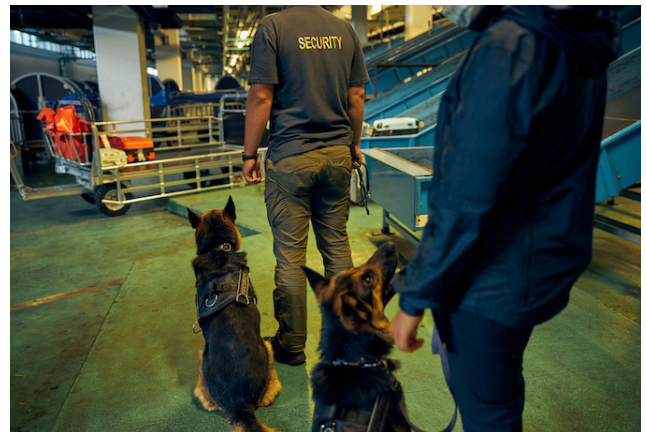
Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs reviews 2024 progress and sets goals for 2025

Videoconference, 9-11 September — Participants convened online for the 43rd meeting of the Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) to review the progress made in implementing the 2024 work programme.

Key achievements highlighted during the meeting included substantial advancements in updating EDD performance requirements, refining certification processes, and contributing input to the EU on regulatory framework related to explosive detection dogs. Looking ahead to 2025, the group aims to focus on developing comprehensive training and testing guidance for the revised EDD standards, strengthening quality control measures, and addressing environmental conditions for EDD use.

Guidance Material Task Force advances key aviation security documents

Videoconference, 17 September — During its 62nd online meeting, the Guidance Material Task Force reviewed progress made in advancing its work programme. Among key outcomes were the completion of two documents: the new *Aviation Security Handbook on Mitigating the Risks of MANPADS and Other Weapons Representing a Similar Threat* and *Guidance Material for the Implementation of Aircraft Security* (revised Doc 30, Part II Annex). Both documents have been adopted by the Security Programme Management Group and will soon be made available to ECAC Member States.



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Behaviour Detection Study Group advances key projects at recent meeting

Videoconference, 4-5 September — The members of the Behaviour Detection (BD) Study Group discussed the progress of their ongoing work programme at their recent online meeting. Developments included the advancement of guidelines for red teaming in behaviour detection, and guidelines for effective interviewing and the role of the interviewer.

The group agreed to split the latter document into two distinct papers: one focused on the framework and applicable concept for effective interviewing in BD, which is set to be finalised in 2024, and a second paper addressing the role of the interviewer with a focus on the competencies required to carry out an effective interview, which is due to be completed in 2025. Additionally, the group agreed to share the guidelines for mentoring in BD with other ECAC groups, following their endorsement through written consultation.

The meeting also covered the progress made towards mentoring three interested Member States on behaviour detection and explored suggestions for the 2025 work programme. Among the proposals was a plan to organise a research and development workshop in 2025 dedicated to innovations in BD training and recruitment.

Handing over the baton – key achievements of the Training Task Force – 2018-2024

Departing chair, Nina Smith, offers some reflections on the key activities that have marked her six-year mandate

« After six years as chair of the ECAC Training Task Force (TrTF), I had the honour of chairing my last task force meeting on 12-13 September 2024, before handing over the baton to a new chair.

During this time, I have seen the group – comprised of a range of highly experienced technical experts from both ECAC Member States and observers – go from strength to strength.

One of the pivotal moments of my time as chair was the COVID-19 pandemic, where the group worked efficiently to develop topical and urgent guidance on how to support our workforce, such as how to deliver training remotely, as the aviation world around all of us changed rapidly in a way we had never seen before.

The group has never shied away from complex tasks and I saw members rise to the challenge in a variety of fast-paced areas. Whether it was developing guidance around screener certification, how to train staff to use rapidly evolving new technology, or supporting the increased awareness of human factors

and security culture. We recognised together that building capacity at national level was the key foundation for States and required accessible and usable support – delivered by the TrTF for Member States through projects such as the 2023 screener certification workshop and the upcoming human factor workshop in November 2024.

TrTF members have to balance their day jobs with the work to support the

group, and the success of our work over the years is down to the dedication and commitment to the wider mission of ECAC. It was a pleasure to have been able to lead our work.

My time as a chair has come to an end and it is time for fresh eyes to step into the chair role. I know I am leaving the group in good hands and that it will remain a leading force in the years to come.



Nina Smith (5th from the left) and the members of the Training Task Force at their 56th meeting in London on 16-17 May 2024

Hands-on training for cargo inspectors

Berlin, 20-22 August
Tallinn, 24-26 September

ECAC continues to enhance aviation security by offering practical, skill-focused training to national aviation security auditors across Member States. These activities seek to strengthen the capabilities

of professionals responsible for quality control and compliance monitoring in aviation security.

To this end, two Best Practices for Cargo Inspectors training courses were organised in August and September in Berlin and Tallinn, benefitting nine Member States.

These courses focused on equipping auditors with basic theoretical and practical knowledge of the cargo supply chain security and audit/inspection techniques relevant to cargo and mail security. The training was enriched by the valuable contributions of two expert instructors from Ireland and Poland.



Berlin, 20-22 August 2024



Participants in the Best Practices for Cargo Inspectors training courses

Tallinn, 24-26 September 2024

National auditors enhance aviation security skills in covert testing training

Brussels, 27-29 August — A Best Practices on Covert Testing training course was held at the end of August, bringing together eight national auditors from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Estonia and the Republic of Moldova. The course provided participants with an in-depth understanding of covert testing methodologies and equipped them with best practices for planning and conducting covert tests in various areas of aviation security.

Participants engaged in a combination of classroom-based learning and on-site practical exercises, conducted at both an airport and on the premises of a regulated agent. These activities offered real-world experience in preparing and carrying out covert tests. The course also focused on best practices for selecting the appropriate test items, managing those items during use, storage, and transportation, and mitigating risks associated with the testing process.



CTM sub-group strengthens collaboration and sets workstreams for advancing ECAC common testing methodologies

Videoconference, 2 September — The Common Testing Methodologies Sub-Group (CTM-SG), established to maintain and develop harmonised ECAC Common Testing Methodologies for testing equipment, convened for its second meeting on 2 September. Representatives from the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment contributing and supporting authorities also attended the meeting.

The meeting aimed to prioritise tasks and strengthen collaboration regarding the maintenance, updates, and further development of ECAC's testing methodologies. Central to the discussions were high-priority tasks and the establishment of dedicated workstreams. These were informed by feedback gathered from the recent CEP Management Group (CEP-MG/61) meeting and a survey conducted among CEP stakeholders.

A key focus of the discussions was the sub-group's relationship with other ECAC security groups. Participants emphasised the importance of streamlined coordination to avoid duplication of effort. To this end, the chair of the Technical Task Force (TTF) joined the meeting to ensure alignment on the completion of several outstanding TTF tasks.

The ECAC Secretariat presented an indicative project plan approach to be applied for the CTM development. The sub-group agreed on the need for dedicated workstreams to support ongoing development of the CTM and reiterated the importance of maintaining a collaborative approach.

Looking ahead, the group has scheduled its next meeting for early October, just prior to the upcoming CEP-MG/62, to continue building on the progress made.

Strengthening test centre collaboration and capacity planning for 2025

Videoconference, 5 September — In anticipation of the 62nd meeting of the CEP Management Group, scheduled for 8-9 October 2024, representatives from CEP participating test centres and the deputy chair of the CEP Management Group gathered online in September. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress of ongoing tests and assess the test centres' available capacity until mid-2025.

The discussions covered several areas including collaboration between test centres, testing of explosive detection systems (EDS) and explosive detection systems for cabin baggage (EDSCB), and the explosive trace detection (ETD) Standard G1 testing campaign, which is set to launch in October. Planning for this campaign was also discussed along with the estimated capacity declared by the test centres and the availability of equipment from manufacturers. ■

First ECAC assessment of assistance to persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility in Ireland

Dublin, 16-19 September — The first assessment under the ECAC Assessment Programme on the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRMs) took place in Ireland from 16 to 19 September 2024. This marks a significant milestone following the programme's launch in 2024, and successive pilot phases between 2018 and 2023.

The primary objective of the programme is to assist ECAC Member States in effectively monitoring the activities of all operators providing an assistance service for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, to ensure that it

is of sufficient quality. The assessment is based on ECAC's policy document for facilitation, Doc 30, Part I.

The assessment team, comprising experts from Italy, North Macedonia and the ECAC Secretariat, was supported by the Irish Department of Transport and the Irish Aviation Authority. Throughout the four-day assessment, the team received crucial cooperation from industry stakeholders: Dublin Airport Authority, OCS, Aer Lingus and Ryanair. This collaborative effort was instrumental in evaluating and enhancing the overall quality of assistance services provided to PRMs.



State Assistance to Air Accident Victims Task Group drafts family assistance plan document

Videoconference, 5 September — Members of the State Assistance to Air Accident Victims Task Group, operating in the facilitation domain, held their third virtual meeting in September. The meeting focused on continuing to review and provide additional content for the working document on family assistance plans. This document aligns with the task group's mandate to assist ECAC Member States in developing and implementing

effective plans and assistance programmes for aircraft accident victims and their families.

The participants recognised the maturity of the current draft and agreed that it was ready to be circulated for feedback to the ECAC group on air accident and incident investigation (ACC) and the Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM). Their comments will be instrumental in

finalising a robust framework to support families in the aftermath of aviation accidents.

The meeting also discussed the forthcoming [ICAO Symposium on Assistance to Aircraft Accident Victims and their Families \(AAAVF2024\)](#), to be hosted by the Netherlands from 26 to 28 November. ■

LEGAL MATTERS

ECAC Legal Task Force reviews outcomes of the 39th ICAO Legal Committee

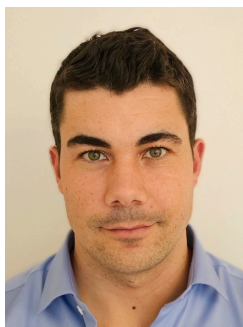
Videoconference, 30 September — The outcomes from the 39th ICAO Legal Committee, held in Montreal from 25 to 28 June 2024, were the focus of discussions at the 51st meeting of the ECAC Legal Task Force (LEGTF) at the end of September.

The reprioritised ICAO legal work programme was presented during the meeting, alongside updates on the election of chairs to the Legal Committee. One of the key topics during the ICAO Legal Committee meeting was the review of the ICAO Rules for the Settlement of Differences, and the task force members considered recent procedural updates and ongoing discussions on this matter.

On the topic of information sharing, the newly established LEGTF legal database is now operational. It will function as a tool for experience-based cooperation on legal matters to help the Legal Task Force members solve complex national legal issues in an efficient manner.

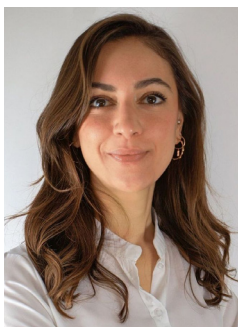
The meeting also featured updates on developments for the programme of the next Civil Aviation Legal Advisors Forum (CALAF3), which will take place in London from 26 to 28 November 2024. ■

A warm welcome to new staff members!



Lars Christensen joined the ECAC Secretariat on 2 September as policy coordinator, covering accident investigations, legal issues and climate change and adaptation.

Before this, Lars was an advisor at the Norwegian Ministry of Transport, where he worked in the civil aviation and postal services sectors. One of his key responsibilities was supporting the Norwegian government's strategy to accelerate the integration of low- and zero-emission aircraft, collaborating closely with aviation stakeholders across Europe. Lars is looking forward to working at the international level, where he will continue to contribute to a broad range of civil aviation policy issues.



On 2 September, **Irene Mancini** joined the ECAC Secretariat as business operations manager. Prior to this role, Irene served as assistant manager for the Global Office at IATA, where she managed

the Global Office portfolio, and as project management officer at SITA, ensuring regulatory compliance for in-flight communications. Both positions were based in Geneva, Switzerland. Irene also previously held roles at the United Nations Office in Geneva and the Italian Embassy in Cameroon.

Irene's career encompasses expertise in project management, stakeholder engagement, regulatory compliance and procurement. She is passionate about aviation, particularly on advancing sustainability within the sector.



Tanja Grahovac joined the ECAC Secretariat on 30 August as a secondee from the Bosnia and Herzegovina Directorate of Civil Aviation, where she worked in the financial department as an aviation statistics coordinator before becoming the focal point for environmental matters.

During her two-month secondment, Tanja will contribute to capacity-building activities for Member States, and support the Action Plans for Emissions Reduction (APER) Task Group. ■

What's on in October?

- 2/ 5th meeting of the Facilitation Expert Group on the Transport of Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM), Paris
- 3/ 74th meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on the Transport of Persons with Reduced Mobility (FAL-PRM-SG/74), Paris
- 3/ Ad hoc meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA-Ad hoc), Paris
- 4/ Information session with manufacturers: communication on explosive trace detection (ETD) G1 testing, videoconference
- 8-9/ 62nd meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment Management Group (CEP-MG/62), videoconference
- 11/ 2nd informal information sharing session of the Economic Working Group (ECO-INFO/2), videoconference
- 15/ 2nd Preparatory meeting for the Diplomatic Conference (DC-PREP/2), Paris
- 15-16/ 89th meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/89), Paris
- 16/ 4th Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) workshop, Warsaw
- 23/ 73rd meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/73), videoconference
- 28/ 2nd meeting of the Threat Response Group (TRG/2), Paris
- 29/ 8th meeting of the Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation (NETD&I/8), videoconference
- 29-30/ 44th meeting of the Security Forum (SF/44), Paris
- 31/ 74th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/74), videoconference