



## ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

### End of year review for EMTO

**Videoconference, 31 October 2024** — The ECAC Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force held its last meeting of the year in October, welcoming several new members from Belgium, Czechia and Finland. The group was chaired for the first time by Emma Jeppsson (Sweden)

following her recent appointment by Directors General as chair for a first three-year mandate.

A review of the implementation of the 2022-2024 work programme in all ECAC's domains of activity, amendments to the

ECAC risk register, and the preparations for the 2025 evaluation of performance of ECAC's working groups were among the various topics addressed at the meeting. ■

## SECURITY

### Insights from the ECAC Security Forum

**Paris, 29-30 October 2024** — Members of the ECAC Security Forum gathered to review recent developments in aviation security. Discussions focused on the future of passenger and cabin baggage screening, highlighting the role of data and its potential to enhance detection, performance, motivation and security culture.

Task force representatives shared progress updates on their work. The meeting noted that three security workshops would be organised on a variety of themes, including: human factors, in November 2024, behaviour detection, in February 2025, and best practices for inspecting explosive detection dogs, in April 2025. The Technical Task Force, which has

continued to provide valuable technical advice, reported on its plans for 2025.

The meeting concluded with a presentation from Latvia, which is scheduled to host the Forum in 2025.



Participants attending the 44<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Forum in Paris

### Inside

- Overview of ECAC's monthly activities: EMTO, security, facilitation, environment, economic matters, legal issues, diversity and inclusion, UAS
- What's on in November?

## Technical Task Force discusses airport security technology

**Bonneuil-sur-Marne, 15-16 October 2024** — The Technical Task Force (TTF) recently gathered at the *Service technique de l'Aviation civile* (STAC), the French security equipment test facility located just outside Paris.

This meeting facilitated direct exchanges between regulatory authorities and industry representatives. Participants engaged in constructive discussions on

two key topics: the future development of security scanners, and the use of simulants for equipment testing. All welcomed this collaborative approach, which led to productive conversations on enhanced security scanners (ESSc) and optimising the use of simulants in ECAC evaluation tests.

The group also reviewed progress on the implementation of its 2024 work

programme, and discussed proposals for deliverables to be included in its 2025 work programme, laying the groundwork for future initiatives. Updates on national developments and cyber security aspects of screening equipment were also shared during the meeting.

## Irish Aviation Authority hosts an exchange of national auditors

**Dublin, 30 September – 4 October 2024** — Ireland was host to the ECAC National Inspector Exchange Programme, an activity designed to foster inspector learning and development across various aviation contexts. This programme empowers States to adapt to evolving regulatory approaches, introduces inspectors to methods of screening they may not have in their own State, and to

best practices that they can learn from and integrate into their national systems.

Six inspectors from Armenia, Albania, Estonia and Slovakia worked with Irish Aviation Authority inspectors at Dublin airport, conducting inspections across a range of regulated entities in the cargo operations, in-flight services and airport supplies domains.

The experience proved beneficial to all participants. The host authority shared valuable experience and insights, and national inspectors enjoyed discussions on how aviation security oversight is implemented in Ireland. For visiting inspectors, the programme provided a unique opportunity to observe how other States regulate and perform their compliance monitoring activities, and to gather new ideas for their own country.



Additionally, the programme was an opportunity for participants to expand their international peer network, allowing generalists to broaden their experience base and gain valuable experience working in an international context, and specialists to become involved in inspections in other domains. During the discussions, suggestions emerged on how to better target and organise future programme activities, for example in light of anticipated changes to ECAC Doc 30, Part II. This successful exchange not only strengthened collaboration among aviation inspectors but also laid the groundwork for ongoing improvement in global aviation security standards.

## Workshop on security equipment in Lima: collaborative effort to enhance aviation security

**Lima, 16-17 October 2024** — For the first time, ECAC organised a workshop on security equipment at the request of the Civil Aviation Authority of Peru (*Dirección General de Aeronáutica Civil*). This workshop aimed to support the Peruvian CAA in effectively monitoring new security equipment, drawing on European good practices, experiences and valuable lessons learned in the field of advanced aviation security technologies.

The workshop provided an invaluable platform for security experts from the CAA to familiarise themselves with ECAC policies concerning security equipment and to better understand the ECAC Com-

mon Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) designed to assess these technologies against ECAC/EU performance standards. Participants also gained insights into European approaches and good practices for testing of security equipment.

Two security experts from France and Switzerland contributed to the workshop as speakers, joining the ECAC Secretariat. They shared practical insights and national experiences related to the deployment and testing of security equipment, specifically focusing on acceptance, routine and functional testing for various security technologies.

## Updates from the Common Testing Methodologies sub-group

### **Videoconference, 2 October 2024**

The third meeting of the Common Testing Methodologies Sub-Group (CTM-SG) focused on prioritising additional tasks necessary to maintain and update the current ECAC Common Testing Methodologies. Attendees were updated on the result of the

recent call for nominations for members to participate in workstreams relevant to CTM development. Following the discussions from the second CTM sub-group meeting and subsequent engagements with participating test centres, the ECAC Secretariat presented a proposal outlining the process for updating CTMs based on inputs received

from these test centres, the Quality Control Study Group, and policy regulators.

The sub-group agreed to finalise its work programme in alignment with feedback provided by the CEP Management Group from its meeting on 8-9 October 2024.

## Information session on explosive trace detection systems testing campaign

**Videoconference, 4 October 2024** — A thematic information session on the explosive trace detection (ETD) systems testing campaign was held online to inform manufacturers about the administrative and technical aspects of the campaign. The session, which focused on testing against the ETD chemical detection standard using particulate sampling, gathered all major ETD manufacturers.

The purpose of the testing campaign, the timeline to meet regulatory deadlines, and insights on the testing against the ETD chemical detection standard were shared during the meeting in a presentation that covered the testing process and result reporting. Several questions related to specific aspects of chemical detection testing were also addressed.

## Key outcomes from the Common Evaluation Process Management Group meeting

**Videoconference, 8-9 October 2024** — Key topics on the agenda at the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) Management Group for security equipment included an update on CEP-related documentation, such as FAQs and the CEP Handbook, the draft CEP 2025-2027 roadmap, endorsement of pending test reports, and progress on ongoing testing programmes. Significant discussions evolved around the explosive trace detection (ETD) testing campaign for chemical detection standards using particulate sampling, as well as the explosive detection systems for cabin baggage (EDSCB) testing.

The meeting welcomed the attendance of a representative from the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) for the first time, marking the IAA's participation as the fourth Supporting Authority. ■

## UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

## ECAC experts meet in Warsaw to share national experiences and set the direction for ECAC's work in the domain of unmanned aircraft systems

**Warsaw/hybrid, 16 October 2024** — The latest workshop for ECAC unmanned aircraft system (UAS) experts took place in Warsaw, hosted by the Polish Civil Aviation Authority and chaired by UAS Focal Point, Mirjana Čizmarov, Director General of Civil Aviation for Serbia. The event brought together policy and safety experts representing authorities from 18 ECAC Member States.

This workshop provided an opportunity to share information on national developments in the UAS sector. Discussions covered a range of topics, from the implementation of national and regional regulation to manage ever-growing numbers of operators, to the increasing commercial use of UAS across many States. Participants also noted international developments, with many States



seeking to implement ICAO SARPs for cross-border operations and in relation to the safe integration of UAS operations with existing airspace users. EUROCONTROL delivered a

short presentation highlighting potential opportunities for some States related to the integration efforts. ■



## Mobility aids, assistance dogs, and website accessibility amongst topics discussed by facilitation experts at recent meetings

**Paris, 2 and 3 October 2024** — Members and observers of the Facilitation Sub-Group on the Transport of Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) met twice in Paris this month to advance ECAC's activities in this field.

On 2 October, the sub-group held its annual PRM experts meeting, welcoming representatives from various industry bodies and operators. The discussions were lively, focusing on key issues such as mobility aids, assistance dogs, and website accessibility. The industry participants provided valuable inputs on ECAC Doc 30, Part I – ECAC's com-

prehensive policy statement document on facilitation – particularly regarding the provision of assistance for PRMs in Section 5. It was agreed that further written contributions from the experts would be integrated into the ongoing work of the Facilitation Working Group's Doc 30 review informal group.

Members also received a detailed update on the development of the European Disability Forum Human Rights Report on Air Passenger Rights, scheduled for publication in 2025.

On 3 October, the members and observers of the PRM sub-group reconvened to review ongoing activities outlined in the group's 2024 work programme. A significant focus was on assistance dogs and the development of a draft guidance document by the informal group, which now includes organisations and nine Member States. The meeting also proposed that the Facilitation Working Group revisit the objectives of the long-running PRM complaints survey to maximise use of its findings and consider future adjustments to this activity.

## Assessing the quality of assistance provided to persons with reduced mobility at Kaunas Airport in Lithuania

**Kaunas, 8-9 October 2024** — Following September's successful assessment in Ireland, the second evaluation under the ECAC Quality Assessment Programme on the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Reduced Mobility took place in Lithuania. This activity was held at the rapidly expanding Kaunas Airport and hosted by the Lithuanian Transport Safety Administration (LTSA).

The two-day assessment involved a team of representatives from Ireland, Norway and the ECAC Secretariat. The focus was on ECAC Doc 30, Part I – Facilitation recommendations for airport design and the transmission of information.

A report on the implementation of the ECAC Quality Assessment Programme will be presented to Directors General in December 2024. The ECAC Secretariat is already working with experts to schedule dates for 2025 assessments in ECAC Member States. ■



## Environment experts discuss key updates and future initiatives

**Videoconference, 23 October 2024** — The 73<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG-CAEP) convened via videoconference on 23 October 2024. The meeting gathered the members to discuss key updates and initiatives concerning aviation environmental matters.

The co-chairs provided participants with updates on the outcomes from the Special meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation held in Maastricht from 5 to 7 September 2024. Following this, topic focal points delivered presentations outlining the current status of ongoing work within the group's domains of activity. These updates provided a background for productive discussions aimed at planning the group's activities leading up to the upcoming CAEP/13 meeting, scheduled for February 2025 in Montreal. ■



## ECONOMIC MATTERS

## Economic Working Group considers key issues in the logistics and freight industry

**Videoconference, 11 October 2024** — The Economic Working Group met online to exchange insights and hear from representatives of the global logistics and freight sector on economic matters and industry needs. This informal information session provided a platform for economic experts to consider broader economic issues related to air services agreements and industry engagement within ECAC Member States.

From the industry perspective, there was a request for air service agreements and international air transport fora to focus more on the air cargo sector, including to develop the unique freight just-in-time delivery sector in line with market demand.

Key topics discussed in detail included challenges surrounding noise restrictions, the availability of airport slots for freight companies, and the

uneven market liberalisation across different jurisdictions. The group also discussed recent and developing international agreements in air transport, highlighting various approaches being considered under these agreements to incorporate different business model concepts that reflect the current and future market needs. ■

## LEGAL MATTERS

## ECAC advances preparations for the 2025 Diplomatic Conference

**Paris, 15 October 2024** — The second preparatory meeting for the 2025 Diplomatic Conference convened in Paris, chaired by ECAC President, Alessio Quaranta. The meeting gathered 35 representatives from 19 ECAC Member States, with the European Commission participating as an observer.

Building on discussions from the first preparatory meeting in June 2024,

this session focused on refining the draft Convention in anticipation of the upcoming conference. Delegates engaged in detailed discussions to reach consensus on key components of the draft, thoroughly examining several articles to incorporate the diverse perspectives of the Member States. A significant portion of the text was agreed upon, pending approval from the Directors General.

In addition to these substantive discussions, the meeting also addressed important administrative aspects of the conference, which is scheduled to be held in Paris in May 2025. Logistical considerations and the assignment of conference leadership roles were also discussed, to ensure a well-organised event. ■

# Advancing diversity and inclusion in civil aviation: highlights from ECAC network meeting

**Videoconference, 29 October 2024**

— The ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation convened online for its eighth meeting to focus on reviewing the final action points in its 2024 work programme and finalise the proposal for the 2025 work programme. A proposal for the group's 2025 programme will be presented to Directors General in December.

Looking ahead, the Network aims to strengthen cooperation with ECAC's sister regional organisations and industry

stakeholders and will explore the possibility of inviting them to future meetings and events.

Significant discussions centred around the analysis of the 2024 ECAC diversity and inclusion survey, and the participants also compared the findings from the 2022 and 2024 surveys.

The meeting highlighted various diversity and inclusion initiatives undertaken in Italy and the Netherlands. Additionally, the

group endorsed a document exploring the relationship between artificial intelligence and diversity and inclusion. This resource will be shared with Member States to promote understanding of these issues. ■

## What's on in November?

Calendar

- 4, 7, 8 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/42), videoconference
- 5 75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG-CAEP/75), videoconference
- 5 76<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group - Expanded (EAEG/76-Expanded), videoconference
- 6-7 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts (ACC/61), videoconference
- 6-7 68<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Working Group (FAL/68), Paris
- 12 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Economic Working Group (ECO/18), videoconference
- 13 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM/7), Brussels
- 13-14 Workshop on Human Factors and Motivation in Aviation Security, Paris
- 14 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG/39), videoconference
- 18-19 77<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG-CAEP/77), Paris/hybrid
- 26 Meeting of Experts on Security Testing, Paris
- 27 203<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/203), Brussels
- 27 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the State Assistance to Air Accident Victims Task Group (SAAVTG/4), Haarlem

