



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Regional civil aviation organisations meet to strengthen cooperation ahead of ICAO Assembly

Guatemala City, 13-14 January 2025

— At the kind invitation of Azucena Zelaya, President of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) and Director of the Civil Aviation Authority of Guatemala, the fourth meeting between the four regional civil aviation organisations took place in January. Participants represented the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) (joining online), the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), ECAC and LACAC.

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on coordination efforts during the recent ICAO Air Navigation Conference held in August/September 2024, and to prepare for the 2025 ICAO Assembly. Participants shared their priorities for the



upcoming Assembly, and identified areas for potential enhanced cooperation. This

productive dialogue will continue during the next meeting, scheduled for April 2025. ■

ECONOMIC MATTERS

ECAC economic experts take a forward look at the UN taxation framework

Videoconference, 21 January 2025 — An informal information session was held with members and observers of the ECAC Economic Working Group in January. The session began with a comprehensive presentation by invited experts from IATA, who considered the proposals submitted by the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to Article 8 of the United Nations Model Convention.

Discussion then focused on the potential implications of such changes for the aviation sector. Principally, airlines who – due to their unique, cross-border air transport operations – operate effectively under the current global taxation model for their income that only uses residence-based taxation. IATA conveyed the industry's concerns regarding the possibility of States opting for source taxation instead of residence taxation for

air transport. It also raised their concerns about the next steps in this area under the UN, particularly in cooperation with external stakeholders and other UN bodies, including ICAO.

It was agreed that the working group would continue to monitor this situation closely and give consideration to relevant national and international discussions on the matter. ■

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European coordination groups prepare for 2025 ICAO Assembly with discussions on facilitation, safety and security

Videconference, 9, 23 and 31 January 2025 — This month, the European coordination groups held three meetings focusing on facilitation, safety and aviation security, as part of their ongoing review of, and preparation for, key ICAO events.

On 9 January, the European Coordination Group on Facilitation convened virtually to discuss the direction provided by Directors General at their meeting on 18 December 2024 on preparations for the 42nd ICAO Assembly, scheduled in Montreal from 23 September to 3 October 2025, and to begin drafting papers in the chosen focus areas of irregular migration and accessibility.

The meeting also considered ECAC

Member States' role in supporting other significant ICAO events in 2025, notably, the ICAO Facilitation Conference, scheduled for 14-17 April in Doha, as well as the upcoming Facilitation Panel, with the date still to be confirmed.

On 23 January, the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG) met virtually. The group discussed the timeline for preparations towards the ICAO Assembly, as well as proposals for, and early drafting of, papers on a range of topics within the safety domain, including hazardous meteorological events and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) resilience.

Meanwhile, the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security met on 31

January. Participants were briefed on discussions at the ICAO Annex 17 Working Group and the Air Cargo Security Working Group. They also received updates from ICAO's AVSEC Security Week 2024, held in Oman at the end of 2024.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to preparing for the next ICAO AVSEC Panel, set to be held in April 2025.

Looking ahead to the autumn and the ICAO Assembly, the participants took note of Directors General's steer from their meeting on 18 December 2024. They considered the European priorities and the next steps towards drafting papers for presentation to the Assembly. ■

SECURITY

Security Programme Management Group prepares for 2025

Videconference, 17 January 2025 — The 43rd meeting of the Security Programme Management Group was pleased to welcome two new chairs: Ana Maria Toma from Romania, the new chair of the Training Task Force, and Océane Benfodda from France, chair of the

Guidance Material Task Force. Both joined the group for the first time.

During the meeting, the participants reviewed the status of implementation of the 2024 work programmes for each ECAC security working group, and began

looking over the draft work programmes for 2025. Over the next few weeks, further discussions will focus on prioritising tasks for 2025, ensuring they align with the needs and priorities of Member States.

ECAC continues to support Ukraine



Riga, 21-23 January 2025 — The Civil Aviation Agency of Latvia recently hosted an ECAC Best Practices for Risk Management in Aviation Security training course in Riga. The course brought together eight security experts from the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine (SAAU). Its main objective was to help the SAAU adopt a risk-based approach to aviation security, improving the experts' practical skills and knowledge in managing risks and sharing best practices in this field.

The training was divided into two sets of modules. The first, through a combination of theoretical training, discussions and table-top exercises, focused on familiarising participants with current and emerging threats to civil aviation, key trends, as well as the risk management process, including an example of a risk assessment methodology.

The second set of modules presented best practices for establishing and implementing risk-based security oversight and managing risks in areas such as airport security, aircraft security, mitigating the risks of insiders, and cyber threats in aviation.

The course was led by security instructors from the ECAC Secretariat and the United Kingdom Civil Aviation Authority, who guided the participants through practical exercises and expert discussions to ensure they gained hands-on knowledge and applicable skills.

Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group discusses key updates, work programme and environmental factors

Videoconference, 21-23 January 2025

— The 44th meeting of the Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) Study Group proposed a range of important topics for discussion. The group explored recent developments in EDD national programmes across Member and observer States. A key topic was the proposal to organise a workshop dedicated to

overseeing the implementation of EDD programmes within ECAC Member States, as part of the ECAC Capacity-Building Programme. This programme aims to ensure that high standards are maintained in explosive detection capabilities.

The group also took the opportunity to review progress made with the 2024

work programme and, looking to the future, considered a revised draft of its 2025 work programme. Other topics on the agenda included a review of ECAC documentation related to the quality control of EDD programmes, and a discussion on how environmental factors, such as temperature and humidity, can affect the dogs' detection capabilities. ■

NEWS FROM THE ECAC SECRETARIAT

Office relocation - ECAC is on the move!

We're excited to announce that ECAC has moved to a new location. As from 3 February 2025, our new address is:

164 avenue Charles de Gaulle
92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine
France

Please update your records!



Deposit Photos © jemastock

What's on in February?

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| 4 | I 75 th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/75), London |
| 4-5 | I 90 th meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/90), videoconference |
| 5 | I 79 th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG-CAEP/79, Brussels |
| 7 | I 44 th meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/44), videoconference |
| 12-13 | I 40 th meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group (BDSG/40), videoconference |
| 18 | I 5 th meeting of the Common Testing Methodologies Study Group (CTM-SG/5), videoconference |
| 18 | I 13 th meeting of the Facilitation Programme Management Group (FPMG/13), videoconference |
| 19-20 | I ECAC CEP Awareness Training, videoconference |
| 21 | I 11 th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process participating test centres (CEP-TC/11), videoconference |
| 25 | I 75 th meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on the Transport of Persons with Reduced Mobility (FAL-PRM-SG/75) |
| 26-27 | I 63 rd meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/63), videoconference |
| 27 | I 9 th meeting of the Network of Diversity and Inclusion (NETD&I/9), videoconference |

