



SECURITY

Monthly briefings in the ECAC Security Forum

Videoconference 5 March 2025 — In response to a survey conducted in December 2024 highlighting the need for more frequent meetings among security experts to address threats to civil aviation, the ECAC Security Forum launched an informal online initiative in March to support cohesion and inclusion.

These one-hour sessions take place on the first Wednesday of each month when formal meetings of the Security Forum, which meets twice annually, are not scheduled. The meetings comprise updates on the latest developments in aviation security, facilitate questions, and support the prioritisation of topics for the agenda of formal meetings.

The initiative will continue until October 2025, after which its effectiveness will be reviewed to determine whether it should continue.

Training Task Force sets 2025 agenda with focus on human factors and security enhancements

Videoconference, 13-14 March 2025 — The Training Task Force's first meeting of 2025 discussed the allocation of tasks included in its 2025 work programme.

The task force will propose new recommendations on human factors in aviation security for inclusion in Chapter 11 of Doc 30, Part II (Security). The group also plans to create new documents on best practices for training screeners to detect improvised incendiary devices (IIDs) and for training national auditors overseeing the use of explosive detection dogs, as well as guidance material on using threat image projection (TIP) in screener training and certification. Additionally, several existing documents, including those on principles and requirements for assessing screeners' x-ray image interpretation competency, and best practices on security scanner training, will be revised.

Ana Maria Finca from Romania chaired the group for the first time since her appointment.

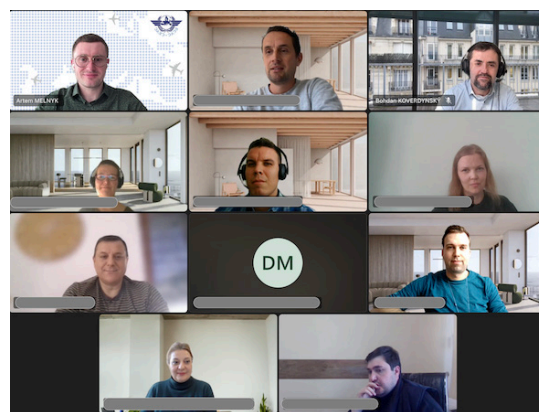
"By revising essential documents from Doc 30 and the Aviation Security Handbook, and introducing new guidance based on real-world needs, the Training Task Force aims to equip personnel with the skills and judgement required in a dynamic security environment," Ms Finca explained. *"While security technologies are vital, it is ultimately the human operator who interprets, decides, and acts. This is why the task force focuses not only on compliance, but also on fostering a security culture that prioritises continuous learning, sharpens human performance, and ensures systems remain resilient and adaptive to meet emerging challenges."*

Basic training of national auditors on cyber security

Videoconference, 5-7 March 2025 — National auditors from Armenia, Finland, Slovakia, the Netherlands and North Macedonia attended the online ECAC Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (Basic) training held at the beginning of March.

The purpose of the course was to strengthen auditors' understanding of cyber security measures designed to protect critical aviation systems and data from cyber threats. It covered essential principles for

safeguarding critical civil aviation systems and data, including an overview of international and European (ECAC/EU) requirements and recommendations, common cyber threats, and key stakeholders and their critical systems and data. The training also explored the fundamentals of information security, and both organisational and technical cyber security measures, with a particular focus on reviewing best practices for inspecting/auditing key cyber security measures in aviation.



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Training course enhances risk management skills for Belgian aviation security experts

Brussels, 25-27 March 2025 — A Best Practices for Risk Management training course was held in March for security experts from the Belgian Civil Aviation Authority. The course aimed to deepen participants' understanding of both current and emerging threats to aviation, while enhancing their knowledge of the aviation security risk management process.

The training covered several key modules, including practical examples

of the risk assessment methodology. Participants learnt best practices for assessing and mitigating risks in various areas of aviation security, such as airport security, aircraft security and conflict zones, insider threats, and cyber threats to critical aviation systems and data. Additionally, the course introduced best practices for risk-based oversight in aviation security.



CEP Management Group discusses key objectives and the year ahead

Madrid/videoconference, 4-5 March 2025 — The 64th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) Management Group reviewed and outlined next steps in its ongoing efforts to enhance the CEP. Key discussions included progress made on priority objectives set at the previous meeting, and the implementation of the 2025 CEP work programme. The group also considered the 2025-2027 CEP roadmap as well as the work programme of the Common Testing Methodologies sub-group for 2025.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the agreement on a clear timeline and leadership structure to finalise high-priority tasks for Member States and other stakeholders, with the meeting supporting the nomination of Valentine Sarnau from Switzerland and Titouan Le-Ray from France as new chair and deputy chair respectively for the 2025-2026 term.

In addition, the group engaged in discussion about potential funding options for CEP research and development, and how to use available funds to maximise improvements to the programme.

Plans for upcoming meetings and continued engagement with the test centres were endorsed.

Aviation security experts gather for an ECAC Common Evaluation Process workshop

Madrid/videoconference, 6 March 2025 — Nineteen aviation security experts from ten Member States attended the workshop on the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP), aimed at expanding capacity and enhancing support for potential new Contributing Authorities.

The workshop focused on strengthening CEP capacity by assisting potential new Contributing Authorities and facilitating the designation of additional test centres for full tests and simulator re-tests.

During the workshop, participants were given an overview of the requirements – including the quality assurance aspects of the CEP – for becoming a Contributing Authority and designating a laboratory as a new CEP participating test centre. In addition to the theoretical discussions, attendees witnessed a practical demonstration of simulator re-test procedures. ■



Economic experts meet in Brussels to progress the ECAC 2025 work programme

Brussels, 20 and 21 March 2025 —

Brussels welcomed ECAC's economic experts in March for their in-person gatherings of the year. The European Commission hosted a meeting of the European Coordination Group on Economic matters on 20 March, followed the next day by a meeting of the Economic Working Group, hosted by the Belgian Civil Aviation Authority.

At the coordination group meeting, participants reviewed and refined the proposed draft papers in preparation for the ICAO Assembly, aimed at addressing the challenges of the economic competitiveness of international aviation.

The following day, the members of the Economic Working Group came together to exchange information on crucial topics affecting the aviation industry, including traffic flows, market access, liberalisation, and air services agreements. They agreed on the next steps to be taken to update the group's toolkit on air transport liberalisation, and also to launch an ECAC-wide survey to collect data on air passenger taxes.

Participants expressed their gratitude to the group's outgoing chair, Mark Bosly from the United Kingdom, who would complete his second mandate as chair on 31 August 2025. ■



FACILITATION

ECAC experts come together on family assistance plans

The Hague, 27 March 2025 — The Netherlands hosted the latest meeting of the State Assistance to Air Accident Victims Task Group, following the decision by Directors General at their December 2024 meeting to extend the group's mandate for an additional two years.

During the meeting, participants made substantial progress in drafting guidance for Member States on developing family assistance plans. They also exchanged information on current national and international best practices, as well as existing provisions in this area.

The group welcomed input from expert speakers from the aviation industry, gaining valuable insights and first-hand experience related to airport and airline assistance planning. These discussions will help the group refine its guidance. A timeline was established



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for completing the guidance document, which will include a family assistance plan template and checklist for ECAC Member States.

Initial suggestions were made by group members to support the organisation of the joint ECAC-ICAO/EURNAT workshop on the broader theme of assistance to air accident victims and their families, which will be hosted by Spain in January 2026. ■

for meetings and upcoming work, including topics on data protection, unmanned aircraft, and legal oversight mechanisms.

Looking ahead, Legal Task Force meetings in 2025 will support ongoing

legal collaboration in preparation for the ICAO Assembly, and address other legal matters of interest to ECAC Member States. ■

LEGAL ISSUES

ECAC Legal Task Force prepares for key 2025 meetings

Videoconference, 4 March 2025 —

Recent ICAO legal developments, preparations for the ECAC Diplomatic Conference, and coordination ahead of the 42nd ICAO Assembly were key topics on the agenda of the online meeting of the ECAC Legal Task Force, held at the beginning of March.

Members reviewed key outcomes from the 39th ICAO Legal Committee in Montreal from 25 to 28 June 2024, and discussed the ICAO Legal Bureau's plans

EAEG sessions focus on CAEP/13 outcomes, CAEP/14 preparations and the upcoming ICAO Assembly

Videoconference, 20 March 2025 —

Two sessions of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) were held in March, focusing on follow-up to the 13th meeting of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP/13) and the start of preparations for the CAEP/14 cycle, as well as the 42nd ICAO Assembly.

The morning session (EAEG-CAEP/80) brought together European CAEP members, observers and advisers

to reflect on the outcomes of the CAEP/13 cycle, which concluded with the triennium in Montreal from 17-28 February 2025. Participants discussed key deliverables and lessons learnt. Looking ahead, the participants also considered how to enhance work and improve engagement in the upcoming CAEP cycle.

In the afternoon, the expanded session (EAEG/81 Expanded) convened a broader group of experts from ECAC Member

States to begin shaping input on environmental issues for the 42nd ICAO Assembly. The meeting also reviewed plans for drafting Assembly papers and provided updates on the full range of EAEG activities.

The two sessions highlighted the breadth of ECAC Member State participation in environmental discussions, reflecting active engagement across both technical and policy areas. ■

NEWS FROM THE ECAC SECRETARIAT

Rustem Kabanbayev joined the ECAC CASE II Project in February as a seconded aviation security expert from the Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan, where he worked as a chief aviation inspector of the AVSEC Department, dealing with oversight activities in the field of AVSEC as well as certification of specialists in the relevant field.

Since 2023, Rustem has been involved as an external expert for the CASE II Project missions in Central Asia.

During his six-month secondment, Rustem will conduct several of the Project's missions in partner states in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.



Alessia Houghton-Clarke joined the CASE II Project on 3 March as a trainee. Over the next six months, she will be working on communications, monitoring and evaluation while simultaneously being exposed to various different elements of the Project.

Having recently completed a master's degree in development studies, this traineeship is a great introduction to working within international cooperation. Alessia is looking forward to learning more about the impact CASE II has on civil aviation, while assisting with the closure of this six-year project. ■



What's on in April?

calendar

- 31 March - 1 April | 3rd meeting of the Threat Response Group (TRG/3), Paris
- 3 | 204th meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/204), London
- 7-11 | ICAO Aviation Security Panel, Montreal/hybrid
- 8-9 | 64th meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/64), videoconference
- 9-10 | 52nd meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/52), London
- 12-13 | ICAO Intersessional Facilitation Panel, Doha
- 14-17 | ICAO Facilitation Conference, Doha
- 30 | 69th meeting of the Facilitation Working Group (FAL/69), videoconference

