



DIRECTORS GENERAL

Directors General at ECAC's 42nd Plenary Session in Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 9-10 July — The Directors General of ECAC Member States, along with high-level representatives from ICAO Member States and various international and regional organisations, including ICAO, the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL, convened for ECAC's 42nd Plenary (Triennial) Session at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This significant gathering brought together over 150 delegates from 47 States, organisations as well as industry representatives.

Chaired by ECAC President, Alessio Quaranta, the Plenary Session began with opening addresses from ICAO Council President, Salvatore Sciacchitano, and European Commission Director General for Transport and Mobility, Magda Kopczynska.

The afternoon on the first day featured a debate session titled "Aviation at the heart of sustainable growth" consisting of two panels with senior figures from the European aviation sector and beyond. The first panel, moderated by Maksim Et'Hemaj, DGCA of Albania, focused on the attractiveness of

aviation as an industry sector, covering challenges in attracting new talent post-COVID-19, the industry's image from environmental, political, and social perspectives, and strategies to make the sector more appealing to current and future workers.

Ana Mata, DGCA of Portugal, led the second panel debate, which addressed connectivity, liberalisation, and fair competition in the aviation sector. Key topics discussed included the complexities and variances in global aviation markets, external threats to connectivity such as geopolitical situations, and the need for international and regional efforts to encourage liberalisation and fair competition to sustain and enhance connectivity.

The Triennial Session also included statements from ECAC's sister regional organisations (ACAO, AFCAC, LACAC), ICAO States (Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the United States), and EUROCONTROL. The presenters emphasised the importance of global cooperation among States and regional civil aviation organisations in implementing international aviation

policies, tackling global challenges, and supporting States in need.

During the meeting, delegates reviewed reports on ECAC's activities since the previous triennial session in July 2021. The ECAC work programme and budget for the next three years (2025-2027) were approved.

Alessio Quaranta (Italy) was re-elected as ECAC president, with Damien Cazé (France) and Rannia Leontaridi (United Kingdom) re-elected as vice-presidents. Kemal Yüksel (Türkiye) was elected as vice-president for his first mandate. The Plenary Session elected new members on the Coordinating Committee: Koen Milis (Belgium), Jelinek Zdeněk (Czechia), and Jari Pöntinen (Finland). The full membership of ECAC's Coordinating Committee is available on the ECAC website.

For more information on ECAC's 42nd Plenary Session, please visit the ECAC website: ■

<https://www.ecac-ceac.org/events-and-meetings/past-events/ecac-42>



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Bilateral meetings at ECAC's 42nd Plenary Session highlight global aviation cooperation

Strasbourg, 8 July — On the eve of ECAC's 42nd Plenary (Triennial) Session in Strasbourg, ECAC President, Alessio Quaranta, and Executive Secretary, Patricia Reverdy, held several bilateral meetings with international delegations to discuss key issues and foster partnerships. Below are the highlights of each bilateral meeting.

Discussions with Japan on ICAO Council elections and international capacity building

The Japanese delegation, led by Senior Deputy Director-General of the Civil Aviation Bureau, Toshiyuki Onuma, and Senior Air Talks Officer, Satoshi Oshima, met with Mr Quaranta and Ms Reverdy. The discussions revolved around ICAO work priorities, Mr Onuma's candidacy for the presidency of the ICAO Council in 2025, and the importance of international capacity building. Both delegations affirmed their commitment to enhancing their cooperation and addressing global challenges in the sector.



from the left: Satoshi Oshima and Toshiyuki Onuma with the President and Executive Secretary of ECAC

ECAC and Republic of Korea touch upon aviation advancements and cooperation

Discussions with the delegation from the Republic of Korea, led by Director General for Aviation Safety Policy, Peter Kyungsoo Yu, focused on sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) developments and mandatory requirements in Europe, with both parties sharing their recent achievements and perspectives.

The two organisations expressed interest in collaborating on capacity building in key aviation topics and emphasised their willingness to join efforts in sharing expertise. The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of both delegations' commitment to work together on topics of common interest.



from the left: Chul-ha Hwang, Yool Kim and Peter Kyungsoo Yu with the President and Executive Secretary

Focus on aviation security matters in discussions with AFCAC

Discussions with the AFCAC delegation, led by President Silas Udahehuka, focused on aviation security cooperation with ECAC. Both organisations shared insights on topics such as performance standards for aviation security equipment under the existing Memorandum of Understanding.

AFCAC welcomed the extension of the CASE II Project until the end of 2025, marking an impactful decision on capacity-building cooperation in the region, benefiting Africa significantly as it represents 53 of the Project's 80 beneficiary States.

The two organisations also reiterated their commitment to the enlargement of the ICAO Council and Air Navigation Commission and shared their respective initiatives to encourage their Member States to ratify the two protocols amending the Chicago Convention.



from the left: Andile Mtetwa-Amaeshi and Silas Udahehuka with the President and Executive Secretary

Expanding cooperation, cyber security and workforce development explored in talks with Singapore

Talks with the Singaporean delegation, led by Deputy Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Tay Tiang Guan, explored expanding cooperation with ECAC, with a focus on the pressing issues of cyber security and workforce development in aviation. Both parties agreed on the necessity to adapt the existing MOU to the rapidly changing aviation landscape to ensure it addresses current and future challenges effectively. The dialogues also touched on the evolution of discussions on the possible establishment of a regional organisation in the Asia Pacific region, with ECAC sharing the European experience in regional cooperation.



from the left: Eileen Poh and Tay Tiang Guan with the President and Executive Secretary

ECAC and European Commission discuss priorities on ICAO matters



from the left: Executive Secretary and President of ECAC with Magda Kopczynska and Filip Cornelis, DG MOVE

An informal meeting in the sidelines of the Triennial Session enabled an exchange of views between ECAC President, Alessio Quaranta, and Director General for Transport and Mobility, Magda Kopczynska, on ICAO matters. Specific focus was placed on ICAO Council elections and preparation for the next ICAO Assembly.

These bilateral meetings underscore ECAC's commitment to fostering international collaboration and addressing global aviation challenges through shared expertise and cooperation. ■

ECAC and Malaysia discuss further cooperation

Recent developments in Malaysia were reviewed with the Malaysian delegation, led by Chief Executive Officer of the Civil Aviation Authority, Norazman Bin Mahmud. The deployment of remote towers and related regulatory aspects were a particular focus of the exchanges. ECAC agreed to facilitate contacts between its Member States with the relevant experience, and Malaysia. Both parties also looked at a new cooperation agreement between ECAC and Malaysia, currently under consideration by ECAC Member States.



from the left: Muhammad Nazirul Izzat, Norazman Bin Mahmud and Flora Chin

ECAC and LACAC highlight cooperation and diversity initiatives

Led by President Ingrid Azucena Zelaya, the LACAC delegation engaged with ECAC in discussions highlighting the excellent cooperation between both organisations. Both parties agreed to explore the possibility of jointly organising a conference on air transport to enhance cooperation between their Member States. The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue sharing information and good practices, focusing on diversity, inclusion, and global challenges in the aviation sector.



from the left: Cesar Augusto Lechuga Chicas, Jaime Binder and Ingrid Azucena Zelaya with the President and Executive Secretary

First meeting of the Coordinating Committee members elected during ECAC/42

Strasbourg, 10 July — At its first meeting following the elections during the 42nd Triennial Session, the Coordinating Committee decided to allocate the Focal Point portfolios as in the list on the right.

The Committee also agreed to the EMTO Task Force's recommendations in relation to the review of terms of reference and rules of procedure of ECAC's working groups. The members gave the mandate to the Secretariat to take this work forward in the coming months. The proposed amendments to the *ECAC Strategy for the Future (2021)* developed by the EMTO Task Force were also reviewed and will be submitted to the next meeting of Directors General (DGCA/73(SP)) on 5-7 September 2024 for adoption. ■

- Diversity and Inclusion: **Zdeněk Jelínek** (Czechia)
- Economic matters: **Damien Cazé** (France)
- Environment: **Rannia Leontaridi** (United Kingdom)
- External relations: ECAC President, **Alessio Quaranta** (Italy)
- Facilitation: **David Benito** (Spain)
- Pan-European matters: **Kemal Yüksek** (Türkiye)
- Safety: **Jari Pöntinen** (Finland)
- Security: **Gunnar Ljungberg** (Sweden)
- Unmanned Aircraft Systems: **Mirjana Cizmarov** (Serbia)

New Coordinating Committee members

Three new Coordinating Committee members were elected during ECAC's 42nd Plenary (Triennial) Session (from left to right): **Koen Milis** (Belgium), **Zdeněk Jelínek** (Czechia) as Focal Point for Diversity and Inclusion, and **Jari Pöntinen** (Finland) as Focal Point for Safety.



ECAC participates in ACAO's 28th General Assembly



Rabat, 3 July — ECAC Vice-President, Damien Cazé, and Executive Secretary, Patricia Reverdy, participated in the 28th General Assembly of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) earlier this month.

Mr Cazé underlined the value of cooperation between the two organisations and the joint activities organised in several domains, including aviation security.

The event also offered an opportunity for bilateral meetings with international partner States, including Saudi Arabia and Singapore. ■

New CTM sub-group sets priorities

Videoconference, 1 July — The newly established Common Testing Methodologies Sub-Group (CTM-SG) held its inaugural meeting on 1 July. Representatives from all Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment contributing authorities attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the group's role according to its terms of reference, discuss working methods, prioritise tasks transferred from the Technical Task Force to the CEP Management Group, and identify new priority tasks.

Following a decision by Directors General at their Special meeting on 7-8 September 2023, the CEP Management Group now directly manages the development and amendments of ECAC Common Testing Methodologies through this new sub-group. The group will seek to enhance efficiency, improve timelines, and facilitate the harmonisation of CTMs. Given the complexity and importance of its mandate, the nomination to the group of experts from various technology strands is expected to ensure successful delivery.

After the first meeting and subsequent discussions with the ECAC Secretariat, Norway will be the first CEP supporting authority to join the sub-group.



Deposit photos/ostandlight

CEP Management Group meeting welcomes new supporting authorities and considers future roadmap

Videoconference 2 July, and Paris/hybrid, 4 July — The 61st meeting of the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) Management Group welcomed representatives from Norway, Portugal and Switzerland, who joined the CEP Management Group for the first time in their capacity as supporting authorities.

The chair, Raquel Chinaea Delgado (Spain), and the ECAC Secretariat briefed participants on the new terms of reference of both the CEP Management Group and the Common Testing Methodologies Sub-Group.

Key topics explored during the meeting included developments on the explosive detection systems for cabin baggage (EDSCB) C3 Concept of Operations Common Testing Methodology, feedback from the test centre on the first application of the EDSCB C3 v1.22 in testing, and a review of the 2022-2024 roadmap implementation. An initial discussion on the 2025-2027 roadmap focused on principles, outcomes, strategic objectives, resources and prioritisation, as well as contributions from the CEP Quality Control Study Group.

The meeting also explored possibilities for CEP expansion and capacity extension, including implementing modular testing and EDS/EDSCB tray equivalency testing to boost efficiency. Another proposal considered was to organise an open day/workshop at an EDS/EDSCB test centre to familiarise interested non-contributing authorities with simulator retesting, and to encourage more ECAC Member States to become CEP contributing authorities and supporting authorities.

ECAC hosts 14th information session for security equipment manufacturers to review recent developments and future testing campaigns

Paris and videoconference, 5 July — The 14th information session for security equipment manufacturers involved in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment brought together 81 security specialists, including 61 manufacturers and 20 members of ECAC's CEP Management Group, Technical Task Force, Security Forum and Threat Response Group.

The purpose of the meeting was to update manufacturers on the recent changes to several ECAC security groups, the reasons behind the changes, the role of new groups like the Threat

Response Group and the Common Testing Methodologies Sub-Group, and the redistribution of tasks among these groups.

Participants were informed about the evolution of the CEP test programmes, developments in 2023, and the CEP funding model, and ideas were shared on how to streamline current CEP procedures.

Key discussions included informing manufacturers about the upcoming explosive trace detection testing campaign and the main requirements of

testing against Standard G1. The latest developments with the EDSCB C3 testing concerning the detection of high-volume liquid threats were also discussed as well as the use of simulants in testing and their potential application in testing x-ray diffraction technology.

During the meeting, participants highlighted the importance of these information sessions. The CEP Management Group will seek to hold them twice annually.

Cyprus hosts training of national auditors

Larnaca, 1-5 July — A Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 training course was held in Larnaca, bringing together eight national auditors from Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Latvia and Malta. The five-day course was designed to enhance participants' competencies in conducting national compliance monitoring activities.

The training course included a blend of theoretical presentations, classroom activities and discussions, providing a robust learning experience. Participants were introduced to inspection and audit methodologies and techniques, best practices for gathering information during an inspection or an audit, and effective ways to assess the level of compliance with European requirements and to present their findings. They also gained a better understanding of the roles, powers and responsibilities of national auditors.

The Department of Civil Aviation of Cyprus provided on-site assistance in the organisation of the course. They facilitated three practical activities at the airport, and an experienced security expert from the department participated as a co-instructor, contributing valuable practical experience and helping to achieve the training objectives. ■



European Aviation and Environmental Group preparations ahead of ICAO CAEP meeting

Videoconference, 4 July — The members of the European Aviation and Environmental Group (EAEG) met remotely to finalise European preparation for the third steering group meeting of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP13-SG2024), scheduled in Brussels from 8 to 12 July. A separate meeting on the same day facilitated discussions with European stakeholders from the industry.

Brussels, 8-12 July — During the CAEP13-SG2024 meeting, EAEG CAEP members held daily meetings to further discuss their positions in light of developments arising at the meeting. These sessions took place alongside the main meeting hosted at EUROCONTROL's premises.

CAEP/13-SG2024 acknowledged significant progress in all of the domains in the CAEP

triennial work programme. The guidance provided during this meeting is expected to aid in fulfilling the programme's goals for the triennium at CAEP/13 in February 2025. ■

What's on in August and September?

August

5/ 41st meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/41), videoconference

September

4-5/ 39th meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group (BDSG/39), videoconference

4/ 202nd Coordinating Committee meeting (CC/202), Maastricht

5-7/ 73rd Special meeting of Directors General (DGCA/73(SP)), Maastricht

10/ 2nd Economic Working Group informal information sharing session, videoconference

12-13/ 57th meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/57), videoconference

17-18/ 62nd meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/62), videoconference

24/ 50th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/50), videoconference

30/ 51st meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/51), videoconference