

ECAC NEWS POINT

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► Directors General

Focus on digitalisation in the aviation sector at the annual ECAC Directors General Forum



Paris, 6 December — ECAC's Directors General gathered in Paris for their tenth annual Forum to examine how digitalisation is shaping the future of the aviation sector. Aviation is affected by digitalisation at numerous levels and in many areas. At a time when the role of digital technology has become a foundation for transformation, the Forum aimed to provide Directors General with an insight into the various dimensions of digitalisation and to analyse the opportunities, as well as the risks, of this phenomenon from different perspectives. The event assembled over 70 participants and featured contributions from a number of guest speakers from ECAC Member States, academia and the industry.

Spread across three sessions, the discussions were expertly moderated by Piotr Samson (DGCA Poland), Patrick Gandil (DGCA France) and Rob Huyser (DGCA Netherlands). David Beardmore from the Open Data Institute set the scene by presenting an overview of how digitalisation and the use of big data are transforming our societies and each aspect of our everyday lives.

The first session then focused on the customer experience, exploring new technologies and how they are shaping a new travel experience for air passengers. Mauro Oretti (SkyTeam) offered an airline alliance's perspective on the benefits of the new technology to alliances, their members and their passengers. Tim Grosser (IATA) spoke about how airlines are embracing digital transformation, and Sherry Stein (SITA) gave a presentation on the improvements new technologies can make to all phases of the travel experience, and on the evolution of identity management.

The second session looked at the implications of digitalisation on operations and performance, offering the operators' perspective on how innovation enables cost reduction, better data analysis and improved operational efficiency.

Florian Guillermet (SESAR Joint Undertaking) gave a presentation on the need to move towards a digital aviation infrastructure to accommodate all types of air operations while ensuring safety. Frédéric Sutter (Airbus) offered an overview of the steps being taken by Airbus with regard to connected aircraft, open data platforms, innovation and digital transformation. Neil Hickey (Ryanair) then focused on Ryanair's use of new technologies to improve its fleet performance and the

added value of predictive maintenance to the airline, while Robert Baltus (European Business Aviation Association) spoke about the impact of digitalisation on the business aviation sector.

The final session provided a more general overview of the impact of digital technologies and big data on aviation. Patrick Ky (EASA) and Patrick Herbert (Irish Aviation Authority) brought the regulators' views to the table, and Chris Johnson, Head of Computing Science from the University of Glasgow, offered a thought-provoking perspective on the cyber security risks associated with digitalisation.



From the left: Tim Grosser, Mauro Oretti, Sherry Stein, David Beardmore and Piotr Samson



From the left: Frédéric Sutter, Patrick Gandil, Neil Hickey, Florian Guillermet and Robert Baltus

The three sessions provoked lively debate and offered much food for thought, especially on the challenges faced by regulators to keep pace with the rapid changes driven by the digital transformation of the sector. Key conclusions included that regulators may influence the speed and the progress of the industry, digitalisation will offer many opportunities - as well as risks, and that governments and industry need to cooperate closely to ensure the benefits of this transformation.



From the left, moderators Patrick Gandil, Rob Huyser and Piotr Samson

Directors General gather in Paris for end-of-year meeting

Paris, 7 December — ECAC's Directors General gathered in Paris for their 149th meeting, the last of 2017. Addressing recent ICAO and EU developments, the discussions focused on reviewing further improvements to European coordination for ICAO events with Directors General identifying some key elements to address this issue. European priorities for the 13th ICAO Air Navigation Conference to be held in October 2018 were examined and the meeting looked at topics that could be considered for the development of European papers.

On environment matters, the importance of developing capacity-building activities, in

line with the Bratislava Declaration, to clarify what was expected from Member States in the implementation of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) was also underlined.

Directors General also considered proposals for the 2019-2021 Work Programme and related budget and acknowledged the need for coordination, for example with EASA on cyber security and RPAS (Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems) issues, as well as the importance of finalising the programme on environment matters following the recent consultation of the newly established environment groups.

In training matters, Directors General adopted the new ECAC Training Policy Statement. This new statement focuses on strategic objectives Member States wish to pursue in the field of training, such as quality training, effective oversight on training being delivered, and cooperation between training organisations. And in the field of security, Carla Pinto was appointed as the new chair of the Security Forum.

The day concluded with a statement issued by Directors General to mark International Aviation Day. ■



► Outreach activities

ECAC participates in ITF consultation day with international organisations

Paris, 1 December — Opened by Secretary-General, Young Tae Kim, the annual Consultation with International Organisations organised by the International Transport Forum (ITF) assembled more than 40 representatives from various transport modes (rail, land, maritime, aviation), industry organisations and users' groups. Deputy Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy contributed to a round-table discussion focusing on the resilience of the transport sector in the event of incidents and accidents. A wide range of perspectives were also shared among the participants in preparation for the forthcoming ITF Summits: Transport Safety and Security (2018) and Transport Connectivity for Regional Integration (2019). ■



► Environment

First meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group

Brussels, 6-7 December — The first meeting of the newly established European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) was held at EASA's offices in Brussels, co-chaired by Urs Ziegler (Switzerland) and Isabelle Besson (European Commission).

Discussions at this opening meeting focused on examining proposals for the group's terms of reference, rules of procedures and work programme for 2019-2021. The participants began preparations for the ICAO CAEP/11-Steering Group 2018 (June 2018), and the CAEP/GMTF/13 meeting (April 2018), and initiated coordinating work on CORSIA matters, including on European replies to the ICAO State letter on CORSIA SARPs. They also launched a reflection on capacity-building work to be undertaken. Germany's offer to host the ECAC/CEAC Doc 29 4th Edition Workshop for aircraft noise modellers and users of aircraft noise models in Berlin on 21 June 2018 was welcomed by everybody.

Inaugural meeting of the ECAC Environmental Forum

Paris, 17-18 December — The first ECAC Environmental Forum, chaired by Michael Lunter (Netherlands), was held at ECAC's offices in Paris. Over one-and-a-half days, more than 80 State representatives, stakeholders from the European aviation industry, environmental NGOs and international organisations shared information and exchanged views on innovative experiences in alternative fuels, the major challenges faced in the CAEP standard-setting process for non-volatile particulate matter (nvPM) and supersonic aircraft. Participants welcomed a presentation by the United Nations Environment Programme on its emissions gap report.

The main focus of the Forum, however, was on CORSIA, and the meeting featured in-depth presentations on its terms, and clear indications of the steps to be taken towards its implementation, in line with ECAC's commitment in the Bratislava Declaration. The Forum's terms of reference, rules of procedure and work programme for 2019-2021 were also discussed. ■



Participants in the first Environmental Forum, in Paris

► Security

Best practices on covert testing training in Lisbon

Lisbon, 4-6 December — The first ECAC Best Practices on Covert Testing (BPCT) training course was organised in Portugal at the kind invitation of the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC). Specifically tailored for national experts tasked with developing or conducting covert tests in various fields of aviation security, this course is designed to provide Member States with the necessary best practices, training and documentation to enable them to develop and implement their own national covert testing programme. Practical exercises were organised to familiarise the eight experts from six Member States with the key principles in covert testing techniques. ■



► EaP/CA Project

Focus on cargo and mail audit and inspection techniques in Warsaw

Warsaw, 5-7 December — The EU-funded Project for Eastern Partnership and Central Asia Countries (EaP/CA) conducted its second training course on best practices for cargo inspectors from 5 to 7 December. This three-day activity, hosted by the Polish Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in Warsaw, allowed experts from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to learn more about international and European cargo and mail security requirements and best practices in conducting oversight activities in this field and to strengthen their competencies in audit/inspection techniques.

Thanks to the kind hospitality of the CAA and Welcome Airport Services, participants also had the opportunity to develop their expertise in monitoring the implementation of cargo and mail security measures through practical activities conducted at a cargo (regulated agent) facility. ■



What's on in January?

- 8-12 CASE Project Best Practices for National Auditors (level 1) training, Beirut
- 16-17 28th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation, Paris
- 17-18 CASE Project regional workshop on security culture, Nairobi
- 22-23 43rd meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/43)
- 30-31 23rd meeting of the Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs, Paris

THE ECAC SECRETARIAT



PRESENTS SEASON'S GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR

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