Spain hosts Directors General summer meetings: focus on European priorities and ambitions for the 40th ICAO Assembly

Malaga, 29-31 August — ECAC Directors General, joined by the European Commission, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), EUROCONTROL, ICAO EUR/NAT Office and JAA TO, gathered in Malaga for their annual meeting hosted by an ECAC Member State.

The meeting was honoured to welcome Spanish Secretary of State for Transport María José Rallo, who delivered a keynote speech highlighting the criticality of air transport as Spain celebrates its 100th year of aviation. Her address was complemented by a presentation from Director General Raúl Medina Caballero on Spain’s vision on how to address the civil aviation challenges of the future.

As this was the last gathering of ECAC Directors General before the 40th session of the ICAO Assembly (24 September - 4 October), strategic discussions focused on European priorities to be brought to the international arena and on the upcoming ICAO Council elections. On this topic, ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils informed the meeting about her recent contacts with regional organisations (IACAO, AFCAC, LACAC), and Salvatore Sciacchitano, the European candidate running for the ICAO Council Presidency elections, shared his vision for the future of ICAO.

As is customary during DGCA meetings, Directors General heard updates on EU aviation developments from Pekka Henttu, DGCA Finland on behalf of the European Union Presidency, and European Commission Director-General Henrik Hololei (DG MOVE), on international cooperation at EASA from Executive Director Patrick Ky, and on the ATM summer performance from EUROCONTROL Director General Eamonn Brennan. On the last day, JAA TO Chairman Alessio Quaranta and Director Paula Almeida presented the outcome of recent activities, new initiatives and some facts and figures about the training organisation.

Appointments: ECAC Coordinating Committee Focal Point for Economic matters and JAA TO Board member

Two other important meetings were held over the three days. First, an informal meeting of the ECAC Coordinating Committee that saw the appointment of Dan Micklethwaite (DGCA United Kingdom) as ECAC’s new Focal Point for Economic matters and Luis Miguel Ribeiro (DGCA Portugal) as member of the JAA TO Board.

Adoption of new ECAC Resolution at ECAC/37

Secondly, ECAC Directors General met in a Special Plenary Session (ECAC/37), where they adopted a Resolution on the creation of an association for ECAC under French law in order to support ECAC’s activities. Amendments to the ECAC Constitution (Doc No 20, 7th edition) were also adopted, notably incorporating the terms of reference of the recently created Focal Point on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, a position currently held by Raúl Medina Caballero (DGCA Spain).
Outreach activities

Cooperation with regional organisations: ECAC meets counterparts at AFCAC and LACAC

**Lusaka, 5 August** — In the lead up to the 40th ICAO Assembly, ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils and Acting Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy met with their Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) counterparts, Armando Lopez, President of LACAC and Director of Civil Aviation of Cuba, and Jaime Binder, Secretary of LACAC. Mr Lopez was accompanied by several senior representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority of Cuba (pictured below). Discussions focused on existing and future cooperation between the two regional organisations and the preparations for the 40th ICAO Assembly. On the Assembly, the two parties exchanged information on their respective ambitions in the areas of safety, security, facilitation, the environment and economic matters, and the forthcoming elections of the ICAO Council and ICAO Council President. The meeting was also an opportunity to learn more about the main features and challenges of civil aviation in Cuba.

**La Havana, 22 August** — ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils and Acting Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy met with their Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) counterparts, Armando Lopez, President of LACAC and Director of Civil Aviation of Cuba, and Jaime Binder, Secretary of LACAC. Mr Lopez was accompanied by several senior representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority of Cuba (pictured below). Discussions focused on existing and future cooperation between the two regional organisations and the preparations for the 40th ICAO Assembly. On the Assembly, the two parties exchanged information on their respective ambitions in the areas of safety, security, facilitation, the environment and economic matters, and the forthcoming elections of the ICAO Council and ICAO Council President. The meeting was also an opportunity to learn more about the main features and challenges of civil aviation in Cuba.

**Safety**

*European coordination on aviation safety and air navigation continues ahead of the ICAO Assembly*

**Brussels, 28 August** — The European coordination group on safety and air navigation held its ninth meeting in Brussels, pursuing preparations for the 40th ICAO Assembly. The meeting carried out a thorough analysis of the working papers already issued for the Assembly, and coordinated presentation of the European papers during the Assembly. The group will meet again in Brussels on 10 September.

**Security**


**Rome, 10 July** — The ECAC Security Programme Management Group, chaired by the ECAC Focal Point for Facilitation and Security, Alessio Quaranta (DGCA Italy), met in Rome at the beginning of July. The main objective of the meeting was to review the ECAC security groups’ work since the beginning of the year and the status of implementation of their 2019 work programmes. This led to the adoption of a series of new documents developed by the Training Task Force and the Guidance Material Task Force for insertion in the ECAC Aviation Security Handbook:

- Guidance on the alarm resolution process of explosive detection systems (EDS) Standard 3
- Updated best practices on landside security
- Key competencies to be gained during train-the-trainer courses
- Principles and implementation of quality control on training
- Key theories and best practices regarding screener work motivation
- Model syllabus for training persons implementing security controls (other than screening) for air carrier mail and materials, in-flight supplies and airport supplies

The meeting also discussed the evolution of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment and recent developments in Common Testing Methodologies used in the framework of the CEP.

*CEP Management Group meets in Paris*

**Paris, 25 July** — The ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) Management Group held its third meeting of the year at ECAC’s offices, gathering experts from ECAC contributing authorities and test centres participating in the CEP. The meeting endorsed the latest test reports, allocated future tests and refined CEP policy and procedures following feedback from the manufacturers.

Discussions mainly focused on the harmonisation of Common Testing Methodologies, and the evaluation of third-party manufacturers (manufacturers that only supply sub-parts of a piece of equipment, such as swabs for explosive trace detection equipment or detection software for explosive detection systems (EDS)). The group also looked at the reduced tray test protocol for EDS and the new EU regulation on the certification of security equipment.
Fourth workshop on cargo security delivered by the CASE Project

Addis-Ababa, 17-18 July — The CASE Project delivered its fourth workshop dedicated to cargo and mail security in Ethiopia, in cooperation with the African Civil Aviation Commission and with the support of Ethiopian Airlines. Over 50 participants from 21 Partner States, including 15 from the host State, attended the event. Most of the presentations were delivered by industry experts (Cargolux, Ethiopian Airlines, Air France Cargo, Swissport Kenya), complemented by views from the regulators (Ethiopia, Netherlands and ECAC).

Previous workshops dedicated to cargo and mail security took place in Côte d’Ivoire (July 2016), Mozambique (April 2017) and Tunisia (October 2018), involving a total of 133 participants.

Best practices for national auditors – four new Partner States join the CASE Project

Cairo, 7-11 July — BPNA – Level 1
Kigali, 29 July - 2 August — BPNA – Level 1
Accra, 6-8 August — BPNA – Level 2
Dakar, 7-9 August — BPNA – Level 2
Dar-es-Salaam, 19-23 August — BPNA – Level 1
Dar-es-Salaam, 26-30 August — BPNA – Level 1

The activities delivered in the field of quality control by the CASE Project during the summer led to the involvement of four new Partner States at national-activity level.

Egypt became the 31st State to receive operational activities from the Project with a Best Practices for National Auditors Level 1 course in Cairo, followed by Rwanda (Kigali) from 29 July to 2 August. Burundi and South Sudan came next with two sessions of a sub-regional BPNA Level 1 course conducted in the second half of August in Tanzania. Tanzania was already a Partner State having benefited from a counter-MANPADS (man-portable air defence system) activity in 2018.

These four courses were delivered by Artem Melnyk and Jane Nakimu, aviation security experts currently seconded to the Project team from respectively Ukraine and Uganda.

The summer period also saw the completion of BPNA Level 2 follow-up activities in Ghana (which included participants from Malawi and Zimbabwe) and Senegal.