

ECAC NEWS POINT

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news



No 5 2020
May issue

Directors General

Directors General consider actions towards the restart of operations



videoconference, 20 May — ECAC's Directors General came together this month for their 154th meeting to work through an agenda with a strong focus on managing the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on the transport sector.

Joined by observers from the European Commission, EASA, EUROCONTROL, ICAO and JAA TO, the meeting began by acknowledging that the European coordination videoconferences, organised once or twice a week to support the efforts towards a collaborative approach among all ECAC 44 Member States, are crucial

for the restart of operations and in the longer term the recovery of the aviation sector.

ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director Silvia Gehrher briefed the meeting on ICAO's current activities, in particular in the regional office. She spoke of the efforts for a coordinated and harmonised approach to overcome the unfolding challenges, and the support provided by the European CAPSCA network in developing the Public Health Corridor guidance on cargo.

In the health safety domain, Directors General welcomed the guidelines developed by EASA and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). The guidelines define measures to assure health safety in air travel following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is recognised to be a critical factor for the resumption of commercial air travel.

Filip Cornelis (European Commission) and the ECAC President provided the meeting with an update on the ICAO Council Aviation Reco-

very Task Force (CART). CART aims to provide recommendations on strategic priorities and policies to support States and industry to cope with the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the immediate, near and longer term.

Directors General had the opportunity to review the draft programme of the eleventh ECAC/EU Dialogue scheduled to be held on 3-4 November 2020 in Friedrichshafen. With the current COVID situation in mind, the Dialogue - entitled "Restart, reconnect, recover - Rebuilding aviation in a changed world" - intends to tackle issues surrounding a post-crisis aviation world. The sessions are designed to be highly interactive roundtables, allowing time for Q&A between panellists and the audience and for all participants to engage in a lively exchange. The conference aims to spark debates that will spread over to the breaks and social events and resonate beyond the event itself. ■

New appointments:

Piotr Samson (DGCA Poland) and Rannia Leontaridi (DGCA United Kingdom) were elected by acclamation as members of the ECAC Coordinating Committee during the closed session of the meeting



COVID-19

Collaborative European efforts to strengthen the response to COVID-19

videoconference, 4, 7, 13, 18, 26 May — The month of May saw five European coordination meetings taking place, bringing together ECAC's Directors General and representatives of the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL in a collaborative effort to address the challenges caused by COVID-19.

Restarting operations continued to be at the centre of discussions this month. Recognising the importance of sharing information and experiences, the participants provided updates on the restart of operations in their own States. The economic and facilitation guidance documents prepared by the specialist working groups, which propose measures aiming to support the aviation sector in adopting a well-coordinated approach,

were approved and have since been published. These are living documents and will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

Member States also provided information on the implementation in their States of the EASA/European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) joint guidelines defining measures to assure the health safety of air travellers and aviation personnel once airlines resume regular passenger flight operations. EASA underlined that although legally non-binding, their implementation was crucial to strengthen passengers' confidence in air travel. EASA has launched a programme to monitor their implementation by airlines and airports and invited Member States to provide feedback so that the document can be updated in line with current knowledge and developments.

The meeting also reviewed a proposed ECAC communications strategy prepared by communications specialists from the Icelandic

Transport Authority and the Romanian Civil Aviation Safety Investigation and Analysis Authority. The strategy underlined that clear and proactive communication was crucial if the sector wished to strengthen public confidence and avoid misleading information that could have a damaging effect on public opinion and demand for travel. In strengthening confidence in civil aviation, the main priority is the health of passengers and transport workers. Special consideration should be given to high-risk groups, such as elderly people and those with underlying medical conditions. Lifting restrictions on travel

shall go hand-in-hand with frequently updated communication campaigns. Member States welcomed this document and the importance of having a harmonised communications approach across Europe.

These meetings remain crucial in the collaborative effort towards the recovery of the sector and will continue to be organised on a weekly basis in June. ■

EMTO

EMTO reviews ECAC risk register

videoconference, 6 May — The ECAC Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force, chaired by Urs Haldimann (Switzerland), met to review the content of the ECAC risk register, which was endorsed by Directors General in December 2019. The risk register has three main categories of risk: strategic, governance and financial. It is a living document that is regularly updated to take into consideration the evolution of the risks to the organisation. During this meeting, the task force reviewed the strategic risks to the organisation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Member States and ECAC's activities.

EMTO discusses cost reduction measures

videoconference, 13 May — EMTO finalised its review of the governance and financial risks included in the ECAC risk register, and agreed that the amended document would be presented to the Coordinating Committee in summer 2020. The task force also agreed on a series of proposals to, on the one hand, reduce the operational costs of the organisation and, on the other, offer support to ECAC Member States in 2020 and 2021 in response to the economic crisis in the air transport sector. ■

Introducing Bertrand de Lacombe, appointed as EMTO's first deputy chair

ECAC is pleased to announce the appointment of Bertrand de Lacombe to the newly created position of deputy chair of EMTO. Mr de Lacombe is Director of European and International Affairs at the French Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGAC). Below, he gives us an overview of his career in the transport sector and the experience he will be able to bring to the work of EMTO.

I have always worked in the transport field, for different modes and mainly in the public sector. I began my career in 1997 in the communications department of the car manufacturer, PSA Peugeot Citroën. I then spent eight years at SNCF (French railways), working in particular on European affairs. This was the beginning of a long love affair with EU issues! I have also worked for the management of regional trains.

In 2007, I was appointed diplomatic advisor to the French Minister of Transports which led to being in charge of the French Presidency of the EU (2008), which was an exciting experience. Following

this, I was assigned to our Permanent Representation to the EU (Brussels) from 2009 to 2013.

It was then time to discover more about aviation: I joined Aéroports de Paris (Paris Airports) as director of public affairs. On my return to the ministry, I took over responsibility for international cooperation at the French DGAC. Since March 2019, still at the DGAC, I have been director of European and international affairs.

This very particular COVID period has fully demonstrated the interest of our close cooperation in ECAC. As we say in French, *l'union fait la force* (unity creates strength)! Within the EMTO Task Force, and under the authority of our chair, Urs Haldimann, I hope to contribute to this collective work.



Environment

European Aviation and Environment Working Group reviews supersonic matters, CORSIA and alternative fuels

videoconference, 15 and 18 May — The European Aviation and Environment Working Group held a videoconference on 15 May dedicated to supersonic matters. European CAEP members and observers and their EAEG advisors on noise, emissions and modelling exchanged views on the progress of work on this subject in the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) as well as on the ongoing EASA work on supersonic transport.

On 18 May EAEG assembled again to discuss CORSIA and alternative fuels. The participants reviewed the briefing material to support the European Council members' preparations for the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) subjects at

the 220th Session of the ICAO Council, and exchanged views on Lower Carbon Aviation Fuels (LCAF) on the basis of the current discussions in the CAEP Fuel Task Group. ■



Security

Training Task Force draws up training guidance on COVID-19 considerations and recovery planning in aviation security

videoconference, 6-7 May — The 44th meeting of the ECAC Training Task Force (TrTF) was held on 6-7 May via video link. With this being the second virtual meeting of the group this year, members have adapted well to the different approach and worked through the agenda efficiently.

The group began the meeting with an open discussion of COVID-19 and its impact on the training area and it was proposed that a guidance document should be drafted to assist with the COVID-19 considerations and recovery planning in the aviation security training field. This work was completed during the two-day meeting and a draft was submitted to Member States on 17 May.

The group also further developed the existing work programme, including work on a new security culture training syllabus and the revision of existing ECAC Aviation Security Handbook documents on training for supervisors and managers. ■

News from the Secretariat

Following the restrictions put in place by the French government to slow the spread of COVID-19, the ECAC offices closed on 17 March.

The majority of ECAC Secretariat staff are continuing to telework and to provide the usual support to ECAC Member States and the various working groups. You can reach staff at their office telephone numbers (www.ecac-ceac.org/secretariat) or at +33 6 75 37 74 13, and by email.

In accordance with our host country guidelines, some ECAC meetings have already been rescheduled via video link until the end of July. We invite our meeting participants to regularly check the ECAC website (<https://www.ecac-ceac.org/about>) or specific meeting portals for the latest information. ■

What's on in June?

All meetings in June are organised via video link.

- 11-12 35th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/35)
- 18 76th meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/76)
- 23 38th meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/38)
- 24-25 30th meeting of the Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group (EDD/30)
- 25 187th meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/187)



Any suggestions or questions?

We'd be glad to hear from you!
Contact the communications team at

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