

# ECAC NEWS POINT

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news



No 7/8 2020  
July/August issue

## EMTO

### EMTO finalises proposals for Directors General

**Videoconference, 1 July** — Gathering remotely on 1 July, the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force, chaired by Urs Haldimann (Switzerland), completed its update of the ECAC risk register to be submitted to Directors General on 27-28 August 2020 (DGCA/69(SP)). The objective was to review the risk register - which had been approved by Directors General in December 2019 - taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the risks to the organisation.

The task force also elaborated a proposal for the implementation mechanism of the new ECAC solidarity fund established for the benefit of ECAC Member States in response to the COVID-19 crisis. This fund has been designed to support Member States' participation in ECAC meetings and activities. The meeting agreed on the fund's key characteristics, including its scope, eligibility criteria, selection process and monitoring of its use and agreed that the final proposal would be presented for decision at the Directors General meeting at the end of August.

The task force also reviewed the current status of implementation of ECAC's 2019-2021 work programme, prepared in cooperation with the chairs and moderators of ECAC's working groups and reviewed by the Focal Points in their respective domains. The analysis, to be presented to Directors General, will feed into the discussion on the future ECAC work programme for the next triennium 2022-2024.

The next meeting of the task force is scheduled on 2 October 2020 and will focus on the development of the ECAC work programme and associated budget for the triennium 2022-2024. ■

## Directors General

### Special meeting of ECAC Directors General



**Videoconference, 27-28 August** — Directors General gathered remotely at the end of the summer for their annual Special meeting, a meeting which is traditionally hosted by a Member State. They were joined by representatives from the European Commission, EASA, EUROCONTROL, ICAO, ICAO EUR/NAT and JAA TO.

The meeting was honoured to welcome ICAO Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano, who gave an opening address highlighting the ICAO Council's main achievements and challenges during the first two sessions of his presidency, and in particular the adoption of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce (CART) report. His address was followed by a presentation by the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director focusing on the regional office's 2020 priorities and the regional implementation plan of CART.

The impact of COVID-19 on the sector continued to feature strongly throughout the discussions. EASA Executive Director Patrick Ky presented initial feedback from the EASA aviation industry charter for COVID-19, while EUROCONTROL Director

General Eamonn Brennan provided facts and figures on the current traffic situation, network recovery progression and 2020 outlook. He also highlighted the 54% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Europe in the first six months of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. On developments at the European Union level, Filip Cornelis from the European Commission informed the meeting about the immediate actions taken to temporarily alleviate the burden placed on the sector by the coronavirus. Marina Köster, on behalf of the Director General of Civil Aviation, Germany, briefed the meeting on Germany's activities during the current EU Council Presidency.

During the closed session on 28 August, Directors General agreed to set up an ECAC COVID-19 solidarity fund designed to support ECAC Member States' participation in ECAC activities during the crisis period. They also endorsed the amended ECAC risk register, looked at the mid-term review of the 2019-2021 work programme as well as the timeline for preparing the budget and work programme of the 2022-2024 triennium. ■

## Coordinating Committee

### Focus on strategy and management issues for the Coordinating Committee

**Videoconference, 26 August** — While its previous meeting on 25 June was dominated by discussions on the consequences of COVID-19 and the actions taken by ECAC to support its Member States, the 188<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coordinating Committee showed a return to «regular» topics related to the strategic priorities and management of the organisation - although the pandemic was still a common theme across most agenda items.

The Committee took the opportunity to have a first discussion on Europe's strategy for the future ICAO Council elections. On management issues, the participants reviewed the status of implementation of the ECAC-EUROCONTROL agreement on administrative and finance matters and thanked EUROCONTROL for the excellent cooperation with ECAC, and the professionalism of its teams.

The meeting agreed that the theme of the next ECAC Directors General Forum, to be held in December 2020, would be "COVID-19 and recovery" and that the topics under this theme would be coordinated in order to be complementary with other events. ■



## Economic matters

### Brainstorming sessions for the Economic Working Group and the Network of Chief Economists

**Videoconferences, 22 June, 2 July and 9 July** — The members and - for the first session only - the observers, of the Economic Working Group and the Network of Chief Economists held three brainstorming sessions in June and July on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 crisis in the economic and financial domains.

The first session was a general open session addressing a broad range of topics: economic and financial relief measures, taking stock of these measures, and the future resilience and economic sustainability of the sector were the main issues discussed.

Participants also looked at State interventions and private investments, the conditions at-

ached to possible support measures, considerations regarding intermodal transport planning, as well as questions of fair competition and a level playing field, public service obligations, the financial fitness of airline operators and the rules on ownership and control.

The second session, entitled "*Balancing the need to support the industry with the desire to secure wider policy goals as a condition of State assistance*", was more specific. The members of the two groups – Member States only – discussed and shared information on the financial support measures for certain airlines and the specifics of the conditions and terms of those measures.

A third session summarised the topics previously raised and considered takeaways for the two economic groups, for the next brainstorming meeting as well as for the future work programmes. There was clear support to relaunch the survey on economic relief measures circulated at the beginning of the crisis and a new survey with updated questions was therefore sent on 7 August to ECAC Member States.

These brainstorming sessions have proven useful for the future work and meetings of the two groups, providing new ideas and fresh topics to refocus their discussions. The outcomes will feed into the upcoming work programmes of both groups. ■

## European coordination meetings

### Cooperation in Europe on the COVID-19 crisis continues during summer

**Videoconferences, 8, 21 and 30 July, 12 August** — The COVID-19 European coordination meetings, attended by ECAC's Directors General, the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL, continued over the summer on a bi-weekly basis to focus on the cooperative effort to support the aviation sector during the crisis.

As air traffic increased and travel restrictions were partially and gradually lifted in most of the region, the participants acknowledged the importance of a fully coordinated and pan European approach on health and safety measures and travel restrictions. The meetings also emphasised that adherence to the ECDC/EASA recommendations was key to ensuring a safe journey and regaining passenger confidence in the health and safety of flying.

Operational issues were also high on the agenda. A special session with representatives from A4E and ACI EUROPE offered Directors General the opportunity to hear feedback from the airlines and airports on the restart of operations. They underlined the importance of harmonising and coordinating measures as much as possible to avoid disruptions, and praised the various economic relief measures, such as the slot waiver, that were already in place. Both associations urged Member States to also consider longer-term measures relating to economic viability and passenger rights.

Information on newly imposed restrictions and requirements, such as quarantine for arriving passengers from certain States or mandatory testing, and their impact, was also shared. Now that the pandemic situation is showing signs of intensifying in many Member States, information sharing amongst all Member States and stakeholders continues to be essential.

Updates from regions outside Europe also featured in the discussions. The participants heard from Abdennebi Manar, Director General of the Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO), on recent developments in the ACAO region and across its Member States. ■

## Common Evaluation Process Management Group

**Videoconference, 8-9 July** — The members and observer of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) Management Group met in July to examine the impact of COVID-19 on the test capacities of the ECAC participating test centres. Due to lockdown, test capacities have not yet fully recovered so no full tests were allocated on this occasion. It is expected that test capacity should be back to normal in October 2020. CEP-MG members also reviewed a proposal to reduce some of the explosive detection systems (EDS) Common Testing Methodologies (CTM) tests while maintaining a high statistical confidence, which can reduce the duration of an EDS evaluation. Further work will be done on this topic.

The group also reviewed progress made in the CTM harmonisation project whose objective is to standardise all seven CTMs used for the purpose of CEP tests by the different test centres. This project will soon come to completion, enabling ECAC to have a fully updated set of CTMs for all categories of security equipment included in the CEP.

## Experts discuss the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the deployment of behaviour detection

**Videoconference, 9-10 July** — The 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group was held remotely and chaired by Carmen Feijoo (Spain).

The participants discussed recent developments in the field of behaviour detection, focusing specifically on the impact of COVID-19 on its implementation. They also reviewed the implementation of the ECAC behaviour detection strategy in the period 2016-2020, and agreed on how to progress to finalise the new strategy for 2021-2025.

Discussions also covered the implementation of an artificial intelligence (AI) system for behaviour detection and the added value AI could bring to the work of a behaviour detection officer and other related applications of AI, for example through using CCTV footage to analyse locomotion through an airport.

## Security experts exchange best practices

**Videoconference, 15 July** — The 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Forum took place on 15 July. Chaired by Carla Pinto (Portugal), this closed session gathered representatives of 24 ECAC Member States. Participants shared information on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on aviation security and on security performance, with a focus on the main challenges and lessons learnt by national auditors during the re-start phase. The adjustments made to national compliance monitoring activities, as well as national auditors' adaptation to public health measures (such as wearing PPE and social distancing) were among the topics discussed. The meeting also offered the opportunity to update participants on the current status of implementation of the 2020 work programmes of ECAC's Guidance Material Task Force, Training Task Force and Technical Task Force. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CEP tests was also examined, and perspectives for the gradual re-opening of test centres in the second part of the year were shared. ■

# What's on in September?

### Meetings in September are organised via video link

- 1 & 3 8<sup>th</sup> Directors General Familiarisation Course
- 3 Meeting of the Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group
- 3-4 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/50)
- 9 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Sub-group on Immigration (FAL-IMMIGRAT-SG/50)
- 10 66<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Sub-group on persons with reduced mobility (FAL-PRM-SG/66)
- 10 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with Facilitation PRM experts and the FAL PRM Sub-group (FAL-PRM-EXPERT/2)
- 10-11 45<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/45)
- 10 29<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/29)
- 14 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Economic Working Group (ECO/10)
- 14 & 16 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/30)
- 15 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/31)
- 22-23 24<sup>th</sup> meeting between the ECAC Coordinating Committee and the United States' authorities (CC/US/24)
- 24-25 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/31)

## News from the Secretariat

ECAC is delighted to welcome Thorhildur Elin Elinardottir, who joined the ECAC Secretariat in July for a four-month secondment on communications matters. Thorhildur is communications manager at the Icelandic Transport Authority and has over a decade's experience in PR and communications management. During her secondment, Thorhildur will contribute to improving ECAC's communication strategies and tools, developing new procedures for handling media requests, taking care of media reviews and improving the content of ECAC's website, among other assignments. "Cooperation and mutual support for the benefit of European aviation can be cultivated by sharing our views and knowledge," she says. «I am glad for the opportunity to become acquainted with ECAC's practices and at the same time contribute to its mission.» ■



### Any suggestions or questions?

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