



For immediate release

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **European Civil Aviation Conference welcomes landmark deal to curb international aviation emissions**

The European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) welcomes the landmark agreement reached today by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to curb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international aviation.

*« Today is a historic day for international aviation. We have been working in a constructive spirit, including with our sister organisations, AFCAC, ACAC, LACAC, and with our partners with whom we have Memoranda of Understanding, such as the United States and China »* declared ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils at the close of today's Assembly. *“Overall, I wish to commend ICAO Council President Aliu for his determination and leadership. He has been decisive in this process towards this historical deal, and so has been the hard work of the ICAO Secretariat. I am also proud of the ECAC team, who achieved tremendous work over the past three years. Today is not the end of something, but only a first decisive first step, and we remain fully committed to making this agreement on a Global Market-Based Measure (GMBM) a reality in 2020. »*

This is an unprecedented agreement for mitigating the climate impact of international aviation, towards which the 44 ECAC Member States have been working hard for the past three years, in close cooperation with the European Commission.

This is the first-ever global agreement to address CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in a specific sector of the economy. From 2021, flights between 65 states – including all ECAC countries - will be covered by a GMBM to offset CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Others will come on-board during the second phase in 2027.

This will result in around 80% of the emissions above 2020 levels being offset by the scheme between 2021 and 2035. It contains a strong review clause that will ensure regular opportunity to improve the GMBM and make it more robust and ambitious, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement. This deal is a decisive step towards the carbon neutral growth of aviation.

Technical work will remain to be done over the coming years until effective implementation of the GMBM, and ECAC will be fully committed to support its Members States in this ambitious work.

### **Background**

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) was tasked three years ago to agree on a CO<sub>2</sub> offsetting scheme to curb aviation emissions.

On 6 October, the Assembly of ICAO passed a resolution which will create a Global Market Based Measure through which airlines will offset the growth of their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions post-2020. It will contribute towards achieving the goals set in the COP21 Paris Agreement.

**ECAC's Member States are:** Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.