

# ECAC NEWS POINT

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## COVID-19

### European coordination meetings

**Video link, 17, 23, 27, 31 March, 2, 6 April** — Following a first conference call organised by the United Kingdom Department for Transport and in response to the COVID-19 crisis, ECAC has been hosting European coordination meetings via video link since 17 March, bringing together the Directors General of the 44 ECAC Member States, the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL.

Held every three to four days, the objective of these meetings is to explore relief measures for stakeholders and the industry at both national and European levels, to look at measures to address the urgent liquidity problems in the sector and define measures which will help it to survive the crisis, to examine the impact on national administrations, and to reflect on the main elements of a recovery plan for when operations resume.

The participants have been exchanging information on a range of issues, including:

- Europe's current traffic situation and forecasts for the next months;
- updates on all-cargo operations, emergency and repatriation flights;
- relief measures, including financial, to be adopted to support the industry at both national and European levels;
- liquidity problems for the vast majority of entities in the sector, from ANSPs to airlines, from airports to manufacturers, and from handling agents to other providers of services, such as cleaning services;
- the impact of the crisis on national administrations, for example: cutting costs, staff reductions;
- the EASA guidelines for transporting cargo in the cabin;
- the extension of certain European licences;
- the impact of COVID-19 on CORSIA;
- the possible adaptation of EU regulations such as on slots and passenger rights.

And have concluded the following actions:

- to respond to the needs of the industry as appropriate with non-discriminatory coordinated relief measures;



- to take all the necessary actions to allow the operation of essential flights including cargo, humanitarian and repatriation flights;
- to coordinate at a global level on measures such as facilitating cargo and temporarily extending licences by raising awareness on the European measures and guidelines on these matters;
- to engage in dialogue and coordinate actions with third countries on slot waiver and other measures;
- to seek strong political messages and actions by Member States and organisations in support of the air transport sector to maintain public confidence in the ability of the sector to recover from the crisis;
- to start preparatory work on identifying key components and actions for the recovery phase in order to be ready when traffic resumes.

This collaborative effort will continue across all ECAC Member States as long as it is needed.

**The latest COVID-19 information gathered from Member States, the European Commission, EASA, EUROCONTROL, industry organisations (including ACI, GEA, IATA), ICAO and the World Health Organization, amongst others, is available on the restricted part of the ECAC website and updated daily for Member States.**