

ECAC NEWS POINT

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news



No 4 2020
April issue

COVID-19

ECAC Directors General coordination meetings focus on recovery planning

9, 15, 20, 22, 28 April — European coordination meetings addressing the COVID-19 crisis continued to be organised on a regular basis in April, bringing together the Directors General of the 44 ECAC Member States with representatives of the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL.

The recent discussions have focused on the key elements for the return to operations and recovery of the air transport sector following the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals for the key principles and measures to be considered on economic aspects and facilitation matters were prepared by the ECAC Focal Points with the support of the working groups in the various domains. The documents, presented to Directors General for their comments, serve as guidance on principles and measures to be taken into consideration by Member States and support a European coordinated approach to both the restart phase and the longer-term recovery of the sector.

A survey on the economic relief measures implemented in Member States to support the industry was launched at the beginning of the month. All replies received have been shared amongst the Member States to help benchmark measures, enable the sharing of best practices and serve as a basis for further coordination on the economic relief for the sector during the crisis and in the recovery phase.

A key message that was reiterated at the meetings, and which also echoes the feedback of the aviation industry, is the strong need for cooperation among all stakeholders, civil aviation authorities, public health authorities and industry, to ensure a coordinated approach and mutual recognition of measures, regionally and eventually globally. Only then will the sector be able to restart and recover.

This collaborative effort will

continue across all ECAC Member States as long as it is needed. Five more meetings have already been scheduled in May.

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



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