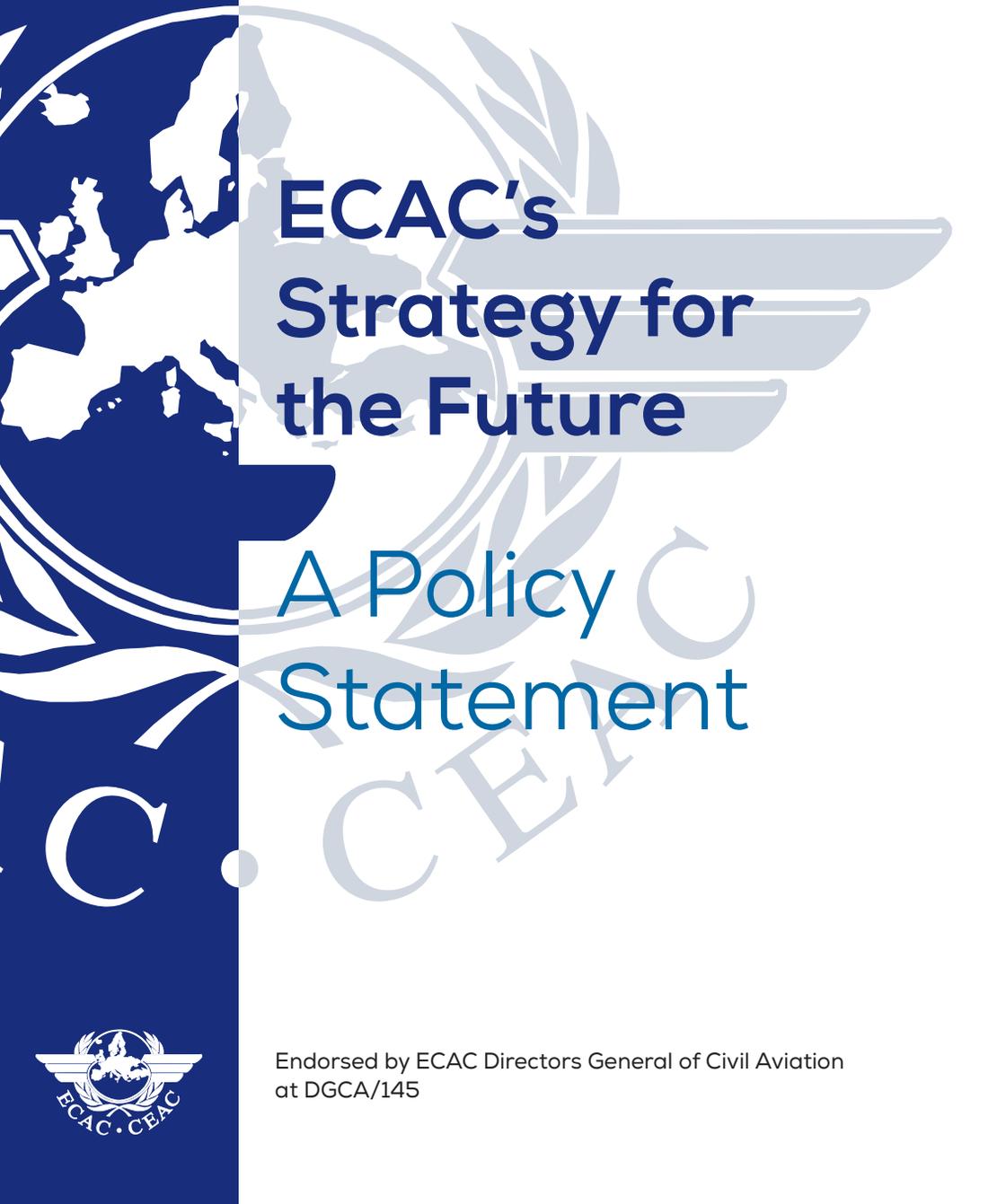


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A large, light blue watermark of the ECAC logo is centered on the page. The logo features a globe with a stylized aircraft and the letters 'C', 'E', 'A', 'C' arranged around it. The globe is partially obscured by a dark blue vertical bar on the left side of the page.

# ECAC's Strategy for the Future

## A Policy Statement



Endorsed by ECAC Directors General of Civil Aviation  
at DGCA/145

# ECAC's Strategy for the Future

## 1] The role of ECAC

**A**s Europe's largest and longest-standing aviation organisation, ECAC has a unique status in the region and a key role to play in supporting its Member States as they address issues affecting the European civil aviation sector, in particular in relation to safety, security, environment, air navigation and economics. It fulfils this role in concert with other key international organisations of the European civil aviation community, such as the European Union (including the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)), EUROCONTROL agency and industry associations.

Thanks to the trust and solidarity among its Member States, on which ground their relations are based, ECAC strives to take its decisions by consensus.

ECAC's priorities in discharging its role are:

- a) To act as a pan-European aviation think-tank;
- b) To support its Member States in developing harmonised pan-European positions and solutions; and
- c) To serve as a centre of expertise for its Member States.

### **A PAN-EUROPEAN AVIATION THINK-TANK**

ECAC provides an excellent opportunity for free and open discussion between its Member States on key strategic issues, without binding implications. This also offers the European Union (including EASA) and EUROCONTROL views and suggestions where and when the governing bodies of these organisations do not have a similar opportunity. ECAC represents a think-tank for many new concepts and innovative matters, not only during DGCA meetings but also through the organisation of the ECAC/EU Dialogue with the air transport industry and the annual ECAC Forum.

The unique pan-European dimension of ECAC creates a bridge between EU and non-EU ECAC Member States. ECAC acts as a facilitator and supports the adoption and implementation of EU standards in all its Member States.

### **B SUPPORT TO ECAC MEMBER STATES FOR INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

ECAC supports its Member States in the development of harmonised pan-European positions in all areas of aviation policy and practice for delivery at ICAO and in other important international fora. This work is done in close co-ordination with the European organisations, bringing to the task ECAC's unique European-wide membership. Additionally, the cooperative relationship developed over the years with other regional aviation organisations is an asset to explain and try to secure global support for European policies.

The co-ordination of pan-European positions at major ICAO meetings (Assembly, High-Level Conferences, as well as ICAO Panels and Committees) is very valuable. Thanks to joint EU/ECAC co-ordination, the 44 ECAC Member States develop common positions on issues of common interest and can speak with one single voice.

## **C TO SERVE AS A CENTRE OF EXPERTISE**

ECAC support to Member States is delivered through the work of several working groups which elaborate standards and good practices, perform analyses and draft position papers and policies, also taking into consideration the need to prevent overlaps and duplication with other European aviation organisations. In this sense, ECAC performs these activities when there is a clear added value for all ECAC Member States.

# III] ECAC priorities

## **A SAFETY AND AIR NAVIGATION**

EASA covers safety activities not only for the EU Member States but also for those other ECAC Member States covered by the EASA regulatory framework. In the field of safety, ECAC will therefore focus its activities only on areas where there is no overlap of activities with EASA, and in particular on the sharing of experiences and good practices within the Group of Experts on Accident and Incident investigation (ACC).

ECAC will continue to play a supporting role in the field of air navigation matters, acting in concert with the European Union (including EASA) and EUROCONTROL agency, and to consolidate a pan-European approach within ECAC Member States.

## **B SECURITY**

Alongside the continued delivery of its security policies, and in discharging its role as the centre of expertise for Europe on aviation security, ECAC will further develop and refine its Audit and Capacity Building Programmes to reflect a more risk-based approach. By identifying the most critical areas, ECAC establishes the basis for the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, focussing on the main risks. The sharing of information on risks between ECAC Member States is critical to the implementation of such mitigation measures.

## II] ECAC priorities

Through security audits and a wide range of capacity building activities ECAC will continue to support its Member States in their implementation of European security requirements. The promotion of the One Stop Security concept between EU and non-EU Member States will also be continued.

International cooperation with key partners, whether regional/sub-regional organisations or individual States, will remain a priority with the objective of building partnerships and sharing experiences with other regions. The performance of security projects by ECAC, such as the one funded by the European Union for the benefit of Africa, will contribute to strengthening international working relationship with other regions.

ECAC will continue to serve as a centre of expertise for Europe on the development of technical specifications and common testing methodologies for security equipment, and the conduct of laboratory tests under the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment. This expertise is also widely recognised by ECAC's international partners. Furthermore, by avoiding any duplication with the European Union it will maintain its high profile in developing recommendations in areas of emerging interest (e.g. cyber security, unpredictability, behaviour detection) and in elaborating guidance material.

### FACILITATION

Very often linked to aviation security, facilitation supports the efficient and sustainable development of air transport. Being the only European organisation dealing with all aspects of facilitation (e.g. immigration, customs, health), ECAC will continue to pursue the development of efficient, effective and uniform aviation facilitation measures (e.g., for persons with reduced mobility and persons with disabilities) on a pan-European basis, and will support ECAC Member States in their harmonised implementation of such measures.

## **D ENVIRONMENT**

The environmental impacts of the aviation sector are, and will continue to be, of primary importance for the aviation community. ECAC's activity on environment matters, in particular on the issue of climate change and the implementation of Global Market-Based Measures, will continue to be performed in close cooperation with the European Commission. In particular, ECAC will focus its activities where and when there is an added value for ECAC Member States, in particular from the pan-European perspective. An efficient collaboration amongst European aviation organisations is of the utmost importance in order to prevent overlaps or duplication with their respective activities, and create complementarities and synergies.

## **E AVIATION AND ECONOMICS**

ECAC is a valuable forum for pan-European consideration of the economic dimension of international air transport, including future trends and challenges (e.g., global competition). The annual ECAC Forum and periodic ECAC/EU Dialogues with the air transport industry are important vehicles for debating economic issues.

ECAC will support mutual understanding and cooperation on economic matters of interest to ECAC Member States, such as European air transport competitiveness and connectivity as well as other emerging issues.

## **F TRAINING**

Training in issues such as safety and security is important to create an aviation culture. ECAC will continue to promote aviation training through the continuation of the management of the Network of Training Organisations, with the objective of creating conditions to share best practices amongst several European aviation training organisations, and by offering encouragement to its two associated bodies (JAA TO and EASTI) to develop training courses which meet the demands of ECAC Member States and the needs of the wider aviation community.

### **G** EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Since its creation in 1955 ECAC has established and maintained cooperative relationships with non-ECAC States and organisations. These relationships were initially limited to other European States, which later became members of ECAC themselves, and to international and European organisations. They have been extended progressively to all regions of the world, thus reflecting the international dimension of the air transport sector.

To date, ECAC has signed a series of formal agreements with international and regional organisations (e.g., ACAC, AFCAC and LACAC), and with a number of individual States. Generally these agreements focus on a comprehensive cooperation based on the exchange of information and mutual participation in meetings and events, while a few agreements have a more limited scope focussing on aviation security.

ECAC has established and actively maintains a framework of relations and dialogue with external partners, including major emerging aviation States. ECAC's external relations serve the following objectives:

- To promote pan-European positions and priorities at ICAO and at other major international events, ensuring that they are well represented there; and
- To learn from and influence selected major aviation States and regional organisations through the establishment of new cooperative relationships and the strengthening of those with existing partners, within and beyond Europe.



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