



DIRECTORS GENERAL

Directors General spring meeting in Paris

Paris, 23 May — Optimising States' SAF production and distribution potential, and preparing to take best advantage of the energy revolution in aviation were highlighted as a major priority by ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar during his address at the 160th meeting of ECAC Directors General of Civil Aviation in Paris on 23 May 2023. Other key issues considered to be priorities for the sector were innovation, including green innovation, and the importance of addressing solutions and challenges in a coordinated manner, as well as the importance of States and the aviation community remaining engaged towards strengthening their global health crisis preparedness and management frameworks.

European coordinator in the ICAO Council, Valdís Ásta Aðalsteinsdóttir (NORDICAO/Iceland), briefed the meeting on the main outcomes of the 228th ICAO Council Session and the European priorities for the 229th session in June 2023. Gunnar Ljungberg (DGCA Sweden) provided an update on the main achievements of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, highlighting the conclusion of the ReFuelEU Aviation agreement and Chapter 4 of the Single European Sky 2+ package. Filip Cornelis (European Commission) underlined the important work achieved under the Swedish Presidency including on ReFuelEU, which he was confident would be finalised by the end of June. He noted SES 2+ was now moving into a critical new chapter and the hope that the strong foundation built under the Swedish Presidency would allow

for further development of EUROCONTROL in its role as Network Manager.

Joining the meeting virtually, Director General of Civil Aviation of Ukraine, Oleksandr Bilchuk, updated directors on the current civil aviation situation in Ukraine and the challenges facing the aviation sector. Directors General reiterated their strong support for and solidarity towards Ukraine and they welcomed measures taken by ECAC, EUROCONTROL, the European Union and EASA in support of Ukraine, underlining the importance of coordination between all parties.

Acknowledging the growing importance of facilitation in aviation, Directors General decided that the ECAC Quality Assessment Programme on assistance for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility should be established as part of the organisation's capacity building offer from 2024.

They also adopted the work programme of the ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation and welcomed the proposal to organise more training courses on diversity and unconscious bias for ECAC Member States based on the positive outcome of the pilot training held at the beginning of the

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year. A new ECAC Charter on Diversity and Inclusion was adopted, and Directors General agreed to create a new position of Focal Point for Diversity and Inclusion, to be approved through a special Plenary Session.

EUROCONTROL Director General, Raúl Medina, provided information on the pillars of the "Raising the bar" programme, which is structured on three main pillars: technology and innovation, international engagement, and people; the Network traffic situation for 2023; and the support provided to Ukraine through the EUROCONTROL ATM Fund. Jeremie Teahan (EASA) briefed Directors General on recent EASA developments, including on environment activities and actions to be handled by the Preparations for Summer 2023 Task Force. ■

Coordinating Committee appointments

During DGCA/160, Directors General appointed by acclamation **Rannia Leontaridi**, (DGCA United Kingdom) as vice-president of ECAC, and **David Benito Astudillo** (DGCA Spain) as a member of the Coordinating Committee.



ECAC Coordinating Committee members meet with United States' government representatives in Washington

Washington DC, 30-31 May — Members of the ECAC Coordinating Committee were welcomed by representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Department of Transportation (DOT) and State Department. The two-day meeting in Washington DC (CC-US/27) was held to exchange information on a broad array of key issues ranging from aviation security, innovative technologies and commercial space, to transatlantic cooperation and furthering the sustainable aviation agenda. This reinforced both sides' commitment to meaningful international engagement to enhance existing global aviation practices and to find common solutions to the challenges the industry and sector as a whole face today – and will face in future. Day one saw the ECAC delegates visit the FAA Air Traffic Command Center where they learned about the approach the air navigation service provider is taking to identify and resolve air traffic management-related issues in a timely and efficient manner. The meeting then saw detailed discussions on a wide

range of topics of mutual interest, including aviation security, safety, economics, the environment – and sustainable aviation – and technology and innovation. Throughout the meeting, the US representatives emphasised their aim to continue sharing information to find collective practical solutions and to play a role in encouraging ICAO standards to be advanced globally. ECAC welcomed this and the opportunity to continue discussions on established aviation topics, as well as to raise new subjects, such as: diversity and inclusion, innovation in aviation security, and priorities in ICAO. ■



The potential of hydrogen for aviation and its integration in the airport system

Videoconference, 24 May — The use of hydrogen in commercial aviation and its future integration in the airport systems was the topic addressed at the 19th monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment. Seventy-four participants from ECAC Member States, organisations and stakeholders joined this capacity-building activity.

The ECAC Secretariat introduced the topic, emphasising that while hydrogen is already used to produce sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), its direct use to fuel aircraft engines is considered a relevant future element of decarbonising aviation. While it will require significant investment in aircraft and infrastructure

development, the long-term benefits are expected to balance the initial costs.

Bertrand Lestimé, ZEROe Market and Customers Leader at Airbus, presented the industry's roadmap to zero emissions and the current Airbus work on the use of H₂ technology in aviation, including various technology pathways and aircraft configurations. He underlined that airports would become hydrogen hubs in the future.

Pierre Hamelin, Vice-President Hydrogen Energy Partnerships Operations at Air Liquide, exhibited the work Air Liquide is developing to prepare airports for the hydrogen era. He stressed that Liquid H₂ is the most

sustainable decarbonised aviation fuel as it does not generate any CO₂ or NO_x emissions. He explained that its cost is expected to be competitive in the future, and that airports need to start preparing now. Feasibility studies will be needed in the short-term and supply chains will need to be developed in parallel to the new aircraft technologies. Mr Hamelin concluded that integration of the infrastructure is feasible in most airports, and he shared a case study Air Liquide is developing in cooperation with Airbus and Groupe ADP to make Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports "hydrogen ready". ■

European preparations ahead of ICAO economic panels

Videoconference, 22 May — Members of the European Coordination Group on Economic matters met for the 11th time online to discuss mutual interest in forthcoming ICAO working group level meetings: the Airport Economics Panel and Air Navigation Services Economics Panel (AEP-ANSEP) Working Group 2 (WG2) meeting to be held on 22-25 May 2023 in Paris, and the Air Transport Regulation Panel (ATRP) Working Group 4 (WG4) meeting on 6-8 June 2023 in Dakar.

Led by co-chairs Christine Mucina-Bauer (Austria) and Simon Brain (European Commission), participants agreed on the importance of adhering fully to the principles of Article 15 of the Chicago Convention regarding what level of charges can be permitted to

be charged, recognising this was not shared by all ICAO States. This followed on in part from discussions at the 41st ICAO Assembly and participants welcomed the chance to raise this and related key issues again.

The meeting gave ECAC the opportunity to hear from the European Commission on the ICAO Doc 9082 review, and agreement was reached on how Working Paper A41-WP/171 (Ensuring that, during crises impacting international aviation, air services agreements continue to provide a predictable framework) would be presented for the meeting on 6-8 June to maximise the potential for its recommendations to be taken forward.

Information sharing session on labour skills and shortages — economic experts explore considerations for industry and governments relating to labour issues in aviation

Videoconference, 24 May — The Economic Working Group and Network of Chief Economists held their first information sharing session on the topic of labour skills and shortages. The session started with an industry summary from IATA on skills and labour shortages. Updates were then shared by States who had experienced specific challenges in this area in the past 12 months, as well as

those who, through specific interventions or the fact of having different market conditions, had thus far avoided significant issues. Whilst it was recognised that there were differences amongst ECAC Member States, some common trends, such as the need to attract a younger and more diverse workforce, and the wider workers' employment rights discussions at the central government level — including

aviation, were identified, and all agreed on the importance of putting in place the right policies and mechanisms to secure and retain aviation talent and personnel for the long-term sustainability of the sector. As an outcome of the discussion, participants agreed to put together a more detailed overview to share some of the emerging observations and trends that were discussed. ■

Highlights from the fourth meeting of the ECAC Network of Communication Specialists

Videoconference, 5 May — The ECAC Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM) gathered online for its fourth meeting to exchange information on national activities and develop communication best practices in civil aviation among the ECAC Member States.

The 30 participants from 22 ECAC Member States engaged in fruitful discussions on the activities outlined in the 2023 NETCOM work programme. They acknowledged the potential need to amend the work programme to address one action arising from the joint ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT regional workshop on assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families held in Milan on 20 February 2023. This

action aims to develop best practices for handling media communication in such sensitive situations.

As part of ongoing efforts to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, the meeting featured presentations from guest speakers. Maria Teresa Antunes (Portugal), Chair of the ECAC Facilitation Working Group, provided updates on the group's latest developments, emphasising the importance of communication in addressing assistance to aircraft victims and the issue of unruly passengers.

Furthermore, a captivating case study was presented by Alec Elliott (Ireland), outlining the recent successful

reorganisation of the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA). This comprehensive transformation involved the creation of a new brand, vision, and mission for IAA, accompanied by the launch of a new website. The case study shed light on the critical role of communication in managing organisational change effectively.

The meeting also witnessed lively discussions on communication campaigns related to drones. Updates from Ireland and the United Kingdom highlighted key aspects such as drone registration, safety measures, and regulations for travellers with drones. ■

Training Task Force reviews new security guidance documentation

Zurich/videoconference, 11-12 May — The Training Task Force met in a hybrid format in Zurich to discuss progress made in completing its 2023 work programme. The meeting considered several draft documents for the ECAC Aviation Security Handbook, such as an overview paper on human factors in aviation security.

Draft guidance on the development of an air carrier security training programme (updated Doc 30 — Part II Annex IV-11-D), and training aspects of in-flight security for crew members (updated ECAC Aviation Security Handbook document) were among other texts discussed at the meeting.

Several documents will be finalised by the end of May, and the rest at the next meeting of the task force in September 2023.



Aviation security experts consider working papers ahead of the ICAO AVSEC Panel meeting

Paris, 16 May — The European Coordination Group on Aviation Security, which includes European members and observers to the ICAO Aviation Security Panel, met to discuss the 39 working papers that will be taken at the 34th ICAO AVSEC Panel meeting (AVSECP/34, 28 May-2 June 2023, Montreal) and other aspects of the panel's work. The group also agreed outreach activities ahead of the panel in support of the European papers and to clarify the positions of others making proposals to the panel, in support of the objectives set out in the European papers to the 41st ICAO Assembly.

European preparations for the ICAO Cyber Security Panel

Paris, 17 May — The European Coordination Group on aviation Cyber Security (ECG-CS) met in Paris for its first meeting in 2023. The group discussed approaches to working papers for the 2nd ICAO Cyber Security Panel to be held in Montreal in June 2023, and reviewed progress in the Cyber Security Panel working groups. The group also exchanged ideas on how to ensure better cooperation between the ICAO AVSEC Panel and Trust Framework Panel.

Denmark hosts a best practices for national auditors training course

Copenhagen, 3-5 May — The Danish Civil Aviation and Railway Authority hosted a Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 2 training course in Copenhagen for national auditors from Austria, Denmark, Lithuania, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova. An aviation security instructor from the CAA of Portugal (ANAC) also contributed to the course.

This course built on the experience and knowledge national auditors gained from attending the level 1 course. Its main objective was to familiarise the auditors with best practices in aviation security audit and inspection techniques and strengthen their competencies in implementing compliance monitoring activities at a national level. The combination of classroom presentations and practical activities at an airport enabled the participants to further develop their expertise in inspecting various security measures, including screening of passenger and cabin baggage, security equipment and access control.



Training for cargo inspectors

Brussels, 9-11 May — A Best Practices for Cargo Inspectors training course was organised for aviation security inspectors from Belgium, Finland, Lithuania, Malta and Serbia. The course content had been updated by the ECAC Secretariat earlier in 2023 to comply with the recent regulatory changes in the field of cargo and mail security.

This course aims to provide national auditors with basic theoretical and practical knowledge of the cargo supply chain security and audit/inspection techniques applied to cargo and mail security. It comprises several theoretical modules covering an overview of the cargo supply chain, and the key threats and security measures applied to address such threats, including screening and protection of cargo. The theoretical part was complemented by several classroom activities and a practical exercise at the premises of a regulated agent to review best practices for inspecting cargo and mail security.



Five ECAC cyber security training courses conducted online since January

Videoconference, 22-24 May — The 5th online Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (basic) training course was delivered in May for aviation security auditors from Austria.

During the course, the participants learned about the basic principles applicable to identify and protect critical

aviation information and communications technology systems and data against cyber threats.

The course provided the participants with an overview of international and European (ECAC/EU) requirements and recommendations for cyber security in civil aviation, common cyber threats to

civil aviation, the key players and their critical systems and data, basic principles of information security management systems, and cyber security organisational and protection measures. Best practices for inspecting/auditing cyber security measures in aviation were also covered during the course.

Tailored training for Ukrainian auditors

Warsaw, 23-26 May — A four-day Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 2 (BPNA-2) training course was organised for ten aviation security auditors from the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine (SAAU). The course was hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Poland and took place in Warsaw.

The aim of the course, considered as recurrent training for Ukrainian auditors, was to support the auditors in maintaining practical competencies to conduct compliance monitoring activities during this difficult time for Ukraine. It combined theoretical training focusing on reviewing new and amended provisions of ECAC Doc 30, Part II – *Security*, with classroom activities and discussions aimed at sharing

best practices for conducting inspections and audits. Particular attention was paid to supporting the auditors in maintaining the practical knowledge and skills necessary to conduct inspections and audits. In doing so, several airport activities were organised that allowed the participants to practise inspecting passenger and cabin screening, access control, security control of airport supplies, screening of hold baggage, as well as deployment and use of security equipment.

An experienced aviation security expert from ANAC (Portugal) participated in the course as a co-instructor to share practical knowledge, experience and best practices for conducting inspections.

“The SAAU expresses its gratitude to the ECAC Secretariat for the excellent arrangement and conduct of the course, and addresses many thanks to the CAA of Poland for the warm welcome displayed to the course participants from Ukraine and the valuable assistance pertaining to organising the course. The SAAU highly appreciates the work that has been done by ECAC and the CAA of Poland to provide the inspectors from Ukraine with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure effective functioning of the civil aviation industry.” – Mr Volodymyr Machuskyi, Director of the AVSEC Department, SAAU of Ukraine, who also attended the course. ■

DIVERSITY

ECAC adopts first charter on diversity and inclusion

Paris, 23 May — Directors General of Civil Aviation of ECAC Member States adopted the first [ECAC Charter on Diversity and Inclusion](#). This significant milestone reflects ECAC's firm belief that diversity and inclusion are fundamental to building a sustainable and innovative air transport sector. By embracing these values, ECAC can foster a stronger, more equitable, accessible and resilient European air transport system that caters to the diverse needs of all stakeholders and the travelling public.



The Charter highlights ECAC Member States' commitment to creating and promoting a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected; diversity is not merely a goal but a means to achieve resilient workplaces. Implementing diversity and inclusion strategies and policies in ECAC Member States contributes to open work environments for all industry actors, enhancing performance, attracting and retaining talent, promoting innovation, and ultimately contributing to organisational success. ■



ECAC Member State appointments in April and May:

- Crispin Orr (United Kingdom) as chair of the ECAC Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts (ACC) for a second three-year mandate
- Giovanna Laschena (Italy) as chair of the ECAC Network of Diversity and Inclusion in civil aviation
- Mari Durban (United Kingdom) as deputy chair of the ECAC Network of Diversity and Inclusion in civil aviation
- Kirsi Tervola-Joutsen (Finland) as deputy chair of the Sub-Group on Persons with Reduced Mobility
- Ann-Kristin Hanssen (Norway) as deputy chair of the Legal Task Force
- Päivi Jämsä (Finland) as deputy chair of the Economic Working Group. ■

NEWS FROM THE ECAC SECRETARIAT

Bas Jacobs joins the ECAC Secretariat as a trainee from the Netherlands to support the activities of the group on the legal status of ECAC (LEGS). Bas is the Secretariat's first trainee and will work directly with the Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy as his mentor. Currently, he is pursuing an advanced LL. M in Air and Space Law at Leiden University, for which he expects to graduate in August 2023. He has also worked at the Kalshoven-Gieskes Forum on International Humanitarian Law on the use of satellite information for documenting evidence of human rights violations and researched European and Dutch rules around suborbital flights as a legal clerk at the Space Court Foundation. Bas is excited to explore all the institutional



law dimensions around the drafting of a new convention and looks forward to gaining a deeper understanding of ECAC and its activities in aviation sustainability and security over the next six months. ■

What's on in June?

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| 2 | 19 th meeting of the ad hoc group on the legal status of ECAC (LEGS/19), videoconference |
| 6-8 | 6 th ECAC Environmental Forum (ENVFORUM/6), Paris/hybrid |
| 7-8 | 35 th meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group (BDSG/35), videoconference |
| 9 | 4 th Sustainable Aviation Fuels Workshop (ENV/SAF-WKSH/4), Paris |
| 14-15 | 38 th meeting of the Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD/38), videoconference |
| 20 | 58 th meeting of the Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts (ACC/58), videoconference |
| 21 | 47 th meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/47), Paris |
| 21 | 20 th familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/20), videoconference |
| 21-22 | 85 th meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/85), Bodø/hybrid |
| 22 | 66 th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/66), Paris |
| 26 | 39 th meeting of the Security Forum (SF/39), videoconference |
| 30 | 37 th meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/37), Stockholm |

calendar



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