



ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

EMTO task force considers ECAC 2025-2027 work programme

Paris, 22 June — The ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force focused its attention on the organisation's performance against its 2022-2024 work programme, and on initial proposals for the 2025-2027 work programme and associated budget. Noting that much progress had been made on the current work programme, the task force emphasised the need to look at possible enhancements of working methods for groups based on some approaches already taken, for example by the task group on ECAC's legal status and the Network of Communication Specialists, and on the importance of a diverse pool of current and future chairs of groups to help bring new talent forward. The development of the work programme will continue to be done by group chairs and secretaries, and EMTO will reconvene in the summer ahead of formal proposals being put to Directors General at their Special meeting in September. EMTO also decided to do further work on the ECAC risk register, based on requests from the Coordinating Committee. ■

Inside

- 6th ECAC Environmental Forum
- Overview of ECAC activities: EMTO, environment, security, safety, legal issues
- Signature of CASE II / ACI World arrangement
- What's on in July and August?

ENVIRONMENT

Aviation in-sector reductions and energy transition is focus of sixth ECAC Environmental Forum

Paris and online, 6-8 June — Climate change mitigation and steps towards achieving the 2050 net-zero CO₂ aspirational goal for international aviation (LTAG) agreed at the 41st ICAO Assembly in 2022 were the focus of the sixth ECAC Environmental Forum, held in Paris.

This event gathered environment experts from a wide spectrum of both government and industry stakeholders. The experts gave presentations on the latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on climate change mitigation, on the status of knowledge of the non-CO₂ impacts of international aviation, on the main European expectations for COP28 later in 2023, and on different policies and roadmaps to achieve the ambitious in-sector reductions. The last of these focused particularly on sustainable

aviation fuel (SAF) promotion but also on the future transition to the use of liquid hydrogen. Financing the energy transition also raised a productive debate among the participants.

ECAC's three sister regional organisations (Arab Civil Aviation Organization, African Civil Aviation Commission and Latin American Civil Aviation Commission) and the aviation administrations of the United States and Canada brought the audience up to date on their environmental priorities, while ECAC Member States, the ECAC Secretariat, EASA, EUROCONTROL and the European Commission presented a number of European achievements and developments. A particular focus was placed on the main expectations for the Third ICAO Conference on Alternative Aviation Fuels (CAAF/3) planned in November 2023.



ECAC Member States in the process of implementing sustainable aviation fuels roadmaps gather at fourth dedicated SAF workshop

Paris, 9 June — The fourth ECAC Sustainable Aviation Fuels Workshop (SAF-WKSH/4), a custom-made training activity under the ECAC capacity-building programme for environment, was held at ECAC's offices. This workshop was specifically designed for ECAC Member States in a similar policy context: all of them have, or are developing, a SAF policy (such as the ReFuelEU Aviation regulation under final approval), and are aiming to boost SAF supply at their airports, as well as industrial value chains for national SAF production.

The objective was to support those ECAC Member States, through a collective in-person gathering, by sharing information from the [ECAC Guidance on SAF](#) and the experience of European pioneering States in SAF promotion. The in-person format also facilitated the establishment of networking links to promote further cooperation among experts from Member States facing similar national challenges on SAF promotion.

Thirty experts from 17 ECAC Member States, EASA, the European Commission, EUROCONTROL and ICAO had fruitful exchanges, and the programme prioritised discussion over solely information sharing. Several States informed the participants about the status of their own SAF

policy developments and shared lessons learnt and challenges, which contributed towards learning from each other's actions and experiences.

This workshop was the first in a series of tailored SAF training activities planned to support ECAC Member States develop SAF roadmaps, following Directors General's support for this programme at their last meeting (DGCA/160, 23 May 2023).



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First ECAC tailored workshop on sustainable aviation fuels in Azerbaijan

Baku, 19-20 June — The first tailored workshop on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) organised for an ECAC Member State was successfully conducted in Baku, hosted by the Civil Aviation Administration of Azerbaijan. The workshop gathered 13 representatives of three ministries (Transport, Energy and Ecology), national airlines, and fuel producers and suppliers.

The workshop was based on the [ECAC Guidance on SAF](#) and addressed the

European and global policy contexts towards net-zero aviation emissions by 2050, explaining what SAF are, why they are needed, how they can be produced, and why governments' policy action is necessary. An overview of what other ECAC Member States are doing, and the policy options to promote SAF supply and demand, was also provided.

The workshop was followed by a group discussion identifying potential national industrial and social opportunities from

SAF promotion, and concluded with the proposal to create a national working group involving key stakeholders.

This workshop was organised under the ECAC Capacity-Building Programme for Environment following the steer of Directors General at DGCA/160 (23 May 2023). Additional tailored training activities on SAF are scheduled in the coming months for the benefit of other ECAC Member States.



Environment specialists prepare summer schedule ahead of autumn ICAO environment meetings

Videoconference, 28 June — Following the approval by Directors General of the initial strategy for the Third ICAO Conference on Alternative Aviation Fuels (CAAF/3), developed by the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG), EAEG set about planning its main tasks for a busy summer. This will mostly consist of preparing advice to Directors General following the outcome of current discussions in various forums and ahead of the Special Directors

General meeting in September and the pre-CAAF meeting in Montreal – also in September, along with various strands of work ahead of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP) Steering Group in October. Work on the production of guidance on the common section of State Action Plans will also begin in this period, with the restarting of the Action Plans for Emissions Reduction Task Group. ■



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Legal Task Force discusses enhanced information-sharing opportunities

Paris, 21 June — The ECAC Legal Task Force met in person for its 47th meeting. Participants exchanged information on the legal aspects of recent global activities, particularly in relation to the ICAO Legal Committee and the ICAO Secretariat Study Group on Legal Issues related to Pilotless Aircraft (SSG-LIPA). They agreed to coordinate input on focus area proposals for the next Civil Aviation Legal Advisors Forum (CALAF/3), which will take place in the United Kingdom in autumn 2024.

The task force decided to take further action to develop a database of legal issues

data to support more comprehensive exchanges of information. Participants were also briefed on the work undertaken

Accident and incident investigation meeting sets the stage for enhanced cooperation on aviation safety

Videoconference, 20 June — The 58th meeting of the ECAC Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts brought together 70 participants from 25 ECAC Member States, observer States (Israel, Morocco, Singapore), sister regional organisations (Arab Civil Aviation Organization, African Civil Aviation Commission), European Commission, EASA, European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities (ENCASIA), IATA, ICAO, and industry stakeholders.

Key highlights included a comprehensive review of accidents and serious incidents that occurred in 2022, and brief presentations from Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland and the United Kingdom on various occurrences in their States. Updates from industry and other fora on recent developments brought valuable insights into regulatory changes, regional cooperation, safety initiatives and upcoming meetings on accident investigation matters.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, laying the groundwork for further collaboration and coordination on developing good practices for classifying serious incidents, and guidelines for media communication following aircraft accidents. ■

by the task group on ECAC's legal status (LEGS) on developing the Convention for the ECAC Secretariat. ■



Meeting of European aviation behaviour detection experts

Videoconference, 7-8 June — The ECAC Behaviour Detection Study Group met online to discuss progress made in completing its 2023 work programme. The progress in addressing mentoring requests from three ECAC Member States, and the organisation of the Behaviour Detection Research and Development workshop in September 2023, were in particular highlighted.

Two new draft documents on research in the field of behaviour detection for the ECAC *Aviation Security Handbook* were among the papers discussed at the meeting. Both papers will be finalised at the group's next meeting (BDSG/36) in September 2023.

ECAC Security Forum considers task-prioritisation mechanisms in the field of aviation security technology

Videoconference, 26 June — The Security Forum met online to discuss the factors and mechanisms to be considered when setting work priorities in the field of aviation security technology. The participants agreed that recent, mainly bottom-up prioritisation should be transferred into a cycle incorporating both bottom-up and top-down principles, with a more transparent process. The prioritisation process should also take into account all stakeholders' demands and facilitation considerations.

Experts review explosive detection dogs guidance

Videoconference, 14-15 June — The Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD) Study Group met in virtual session to consider the tasks in its 2023 work programme. The participants agreed on a new structure for the EDD documentation, and suggested transferring most of the recent relevant guidance contained in ECAC Doc 30, Part II - *Security* annexes to the ECAC *Aviation Security Handbook*. They then reviewed the main EDD guidance document, *General Testing Methodology*. These proposals will be considered by the Security Programme Management Group.

The meeting took note of the outcome of the first EDD mentoring activity held in London in June 2023, and agreed on the format of a second event planned in Belgium in October 2023. It also established the steps to be followed when reviewing the EDD threat list.



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Norway hosts ECAC Technical Task Force meeting in Bodø

Bodø/hybrid, 21-22 June — The meeting of the ECAC Technical Task Force (TTF) was kindly hosted by the civil aviation authority of Norway in Bodø, where participants had the opportunity to discuss aviation security technology

topics defined in the task force's 2023 work programme.

The meeting reviewed developments in ECAC Member States and observer organisations, exchanged experience on the use of the European Commission

(JRC) Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) test kit, and continued discussions on the application of open architecture solutions in aviation screening equipment. A new version of the Common Testing Methodology (CTM) on Security Scanners (SSc) was also endorsed and participants discussed future steps in developing SSc performance standards. A significant share of the meeting was devoted to discussing the detection and testing methodologies related to chemical threats to civil aviation.



Second training on risk management in aviation security

Tirana, 20-21 June — A Best Practices for Risk Management in Aviation Security training course was conducted in Tirana with a contribution from an instructor from the Romanian civil aviation authority.

The course aimed to provide security experts from the Albanian Civil Aviation Authority and other national authorities involved in risk assessment with the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills necessary to develop and implement a national risk assessment methodology, and develop effective mitigating measures.

Core modules presented through a combination of theoretical training, discussions and table-top exercises allowed participants to familiarise themselves with existing and emerging threats to civil aviation, current trends, and the risk management process,

including an example of a risk assessment methodology. A second group of modules presented best practices for conducting risk assessment, establishing

and implementing risk-based security oversight, assessing and mitigating risks in airside and landside areas of an airport, and mitigating insider threat in aviation.



CASE II

Strengthening collaboration as ECAC signs cooperation arrangement with ACI World

Barcelona, 27 June — ECAC President Alessio Quaranta and ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira signed a cooperation arrangement for the purpose of the EU-funded and ECAC-implemented CASE II Project, in the margins of the ACI EUROPE/ACI World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition.

This cooperation arrangement will enable the delivery of ACI Airport Excellence (APEX) in Security Programme airport security peer reviews to Partner States in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia under the framework of the CASE II Project. These reviews will give airports in Partner States the opportunity to have their security processes assessed according to international standards and leading practices. This arrangement reinforces the collaboration between ECAC and ACI World. ■



37th meeting of the Security Programme Management Group

Stockholm, 30 June — Risks related to ECAC's aviation security activities included in the ECAC Risk Register, the status of implementation of tasks in the work programmes of ECAC's task forces and study groups, and priorities for the 2025-2027 work programme featured high on the agenda of the latest Security Programme Management Group meeting.

The group also exchanged ideas and possible options to streamline procedures for developing performance standards and testing methodologies for security equipment and to further increase the efficiency of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment for the benefit of Member States and all stakeholders using data produced by the CEP. Discussions will continue during the summer and sets of proposals will be developed for further consideration by Directors General. ■

What's on in July and August?

July

- 6 2nd sustainable aviation fuels tailored workshop for Ukraine (ENV/SAF-T-WKSHP/2), videoconference
- 11-12 58th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment Management Group (CEP-MG/58), Paris
- 17 4th meeting of the Network on Diversity and Inclusion in civil aviation (NETD&I/4), videoconference
- 18 67th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/67), videoconference
- 19 20th familiarisation webinar on basic

knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/20), videoconference

19-20 3rd sustainable aviation fuels tailored workshop (ENV/SAF-T-WKSHP/3), Lisbon

26-27 4th sustainable aviation fuels tailored workshop (ENV/SAF-T-WKSHP/4), Chisinau

August

9 38th meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/38), videoconference

29-30 21st annual meeting of the ECAC certified aviation security auditors group (AUD/21), Paris



ECAC Secretariat
3 bis, villa Emile Bergerat
92522 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France

Tel: +33 1 46 41 85 49
www.ecac-ceac.org
communications@ecac-ceac.org

