



## DIRECTORS GENERAL

### Directors General focus on key European priorities and lessons learnt from summer 2023

**Valletta, 7-9 September** — The annual Special meeting of ECAC Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/72(SP)) gathered more than 80 participants from 36 Member States and key stakeholders, including the European Commission (DG MOVE), EASA, EUROCONTROL and ICAO.

The meeting was opened by the Hon Aaron Farrugia, Malta's Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Capital Projects. Charles Pace (DGCA Malta) presented an overview of the Maltese civil aviation landscape, and Juan Carlos Salazar, ICAO Secretary General, emphasised the need to advance sustainable aviation fuels to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and to promote innovation to meet the sector's sustainability, safety, security, and capacity objectives.

As this was the last gathering of Directors General before the upcoming ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3, 20-24 November 2023), strategic discussions focused on the preparations for the conference and on the key European priorities on environmental matters, including the work of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP).

European representatives to the ICAO

Council briefed the meeting on the main outcomes of the 229<sup>th</sup> Council Session and the priority topics for the next session, while Nicolas Rallo, ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director, gave an overview of upcoming regional activities.

Participants heard updates from the European Commission on EU aviation developments. David Benito Astudillo (DGCA Spain), whose country holds the EU Presidency for the second half of 2023, briefed the meeting on the key objectives during Spain's tenure of the presidency, including the implementation of the Single European Sky (SES2+) legal package.

The meeting also served as a platform for Member States and aviation stakeholders to share their experiences and insights into how summer 2023 unfolded, covering the successes, challenges and lessons learnt. Raúl Medina Caballero, EUROCONTROL Director General, provided an overview of the summer season, and Member States shared their experiences of traffic delays, strikes, operational matters, staffing shortages, and the impact of weather disruptions.

Oleksandr Bilchuk (DGCA Ukraine) brought Directors General up to date on the status of civil aviation in Ukraine.

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He emphasised critical priorities such as funding for aviation infrastructure and the recovery of their aviation sector.

EASA presented the organisation's recent developments, covering five key topics: its environmental activities, a report on summer 2023, the EASA Annual Safety Review 2023, cyber security, and innovative air mobility.

On ECAC-related matters, ECAC Executive Secretary, Patricia Reverdy, highlighted the particular focus on environmental capacity building and gave an update on the ECAC Quality Assessment Programme (QAP) for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, a facilitation-related initiative. ■



## Amendment to the ECAC Constitution and resolution adopted at Special Plenary Session

**Valletta, 8 September** — An amendment to the ECAC Constitution (Doc 20, 10<sup>th</sup> edition dated December 2021) incorporating the new role of Focal Point for Diversity and Inclusion and the related terms of reference was adopted by Directors General at their 41<sup>st</sup> Special Plenary Session (ECAC/41).

Directors also adopted a resolution on convening a diplomatic conference to establish a legal framework for the ECAC Secretariat. The date of the diplomatic conference will be set during the December meeting of ECAC Directors General (DGCA/161, 7 December 2023). ■

## Strategic discussions at the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force meeting

**Videoconference, 13 September** — Continuing preparation of the 2025-2027 work programme and budget was the main focus of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force's September meeting. A revised proposal for the work programme will be taken back to group members for further refinements, and an additional meeting will be organised to develop proposals to be sent to the Coordinating Committee. The task force also proposed some improvements to the reporting of risks included in the ECAC Risk Register. The meeting supported the nomination of Karin Puleo-Leodolter (Austria) as new chair, subject to formal appointment by the Coordinating Committee. ■

## Coordinating Committee defines future plans and strategies for ECAC

**Valletta, 7 September** — The Coordinating Committee, meeting in the margins of the Directors General Special meeting in Malta, agreed on budgetary decisions to enable the 2022 surplus to be transferred to the Special Reserve Fund to allow for future initiatives to be decided by Directors General, and increased the size of the Working Capital Fund.

Two initiatives to improve the effectiveness

of ECAC groups were agreed: a new training for chairs and moderators of ECAC groups to be drafted by the Secretariat, and standardisation of the terms of reference and rules of procedure of all ECAC groups. Planning for future meetings including the ECAC/EU Dialogue with the air transport industry (24-25 October 2023), the ECAC triennial session (3-4 July 2024) and future Special Directors General meetings was progressed. ■

### Coordinating Committee appointments

The Committee made three new Focal Point appointments: (from left to right) **David Benito Astudillo** as Focal Point for Facilitation, **Elisabeth Landrichter** for Diversity and Inclusion, and **Mirjana Ćismarov** for Unmanned Aircraft Systems.



## European preparations for ICAO CAEP/13 steering group meeting 2023

**Paris, 11 September** — The European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) held its annual in-person meeting in Paris to progress European coordination for the second steering group meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> cycle of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), which will take place in Takamatsu (Japan) from 16 to 20 October 2023.

In particular, the group identified the key topics

of interest for Europe that required the submission of European working papers. A timeline was established to draft and endorse these papers, and initial views were exchanged on the working papers already available on the CAEP portal. The 66<sup>th</sup> EAEG meeting and the 66<sup>th</sup> EAEG meeting with European stakeholders were held on 9 October 2023.





## Tailored training on sustainable aviation fuels for experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Sarajevo, 28-29 September** — The fifth tailored training on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) provided to an ECAC Member State was successfully delivered at the regional office of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Directorate of Civil Aviation (BHDCA) in Sarajevo. It welcomed the active participation of 11 representatives from different national bodies, including the ministries of Communications and

Transportation, and Foreign Trade and Economic Relationships, the airport operators of Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Tuzla, as well as the Faculty of Transport and Communication from the University of Sarajevo.

The training addressed the content and recommendations featured in the ECAC Guidance on SAF published in February 2023, comprising explanations on what

SAF are, why they are needed and how they can be produced. A national discussion identifying potential opportunities for Bosnia and Herzegovina from SAF promotion completed the training.

Possible follow-up actions identified included the establishment of a national SAF working group to develop a feasibility study. ■



## Meetings of behaviour detection experts

**Paris, 26-27 September** — Recent research and development initiatives in questioning techniques in the field of behaviour detection (BD) were the focus of the fifth ECAC Behaviour Detection Research and Development Workshop in Paris.

Several presentations by behaviour detection experts gave participants the opportunity to explore the current status of scientific research initiatives on questioning techniques in BD and to share their outcomes, with the aim of further developing and strengthening the implementation of BD among ECAC Member States and worldwide. During two panel discussions, participants discussed the main challenges in implementing BD as well as expectations, limitations and the future impact of BD technology.

**Paris/videoconference, 27-28 September** — The Behaviour Detection Study Group met in a hybrid format immediately after the workshop. Participants considered the outcomes of the workshop, progress in implementing

the group's 2023 work programme, and its priorities for 2024. They discussed developments in providing BD mentoring to interested Member States, as well as the revised ECAC Aviation Security Handbook document on BD in aviation security and a new draft document on common standards for research in artificial intelligence for BD in the aviation security context. Both documents will be finalised through written consultation by the end of October 2023. As a follow-up

to the workshop, the study group agreed to develop a new document in 2024 on effective interviewing in BD and the role of the interviewer.

This was the last meeting for Carmen Feijoo (Spain) in her capacity as moderator. The participants and the ECAC Secretariat thanked Ms Feijoo for her excellent work, professionalism and commitment to the group over the last six years.



## Aviation cyber security experts finalise 2023 programme and fix priorities for 2024

**Videoconference, 19 September** — The Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation met to review progress on the group's 2023 work programme. Draft guidance on oversight, recruitment and training of cyber personnel in aviation authorities, and risk assessment methodology were discussed and the relevant guidance material should be finalised by the end of 2023. The group also endorsed new content and a new structure for Chapter 14 (Cyber Security) of ECAC Doc 30, Part II – *Security*. The purpose of this update is to merge the requirements stemming from aviation security, aviation safety and resilience legislative frameworks applicable in the European region.

A first draft of the group's 2024 priorities was also discussed. One of the meeting's positive outcomes was the commitment to continued active involvement by several study group members in ECAC's cyber security capacity-building activities.

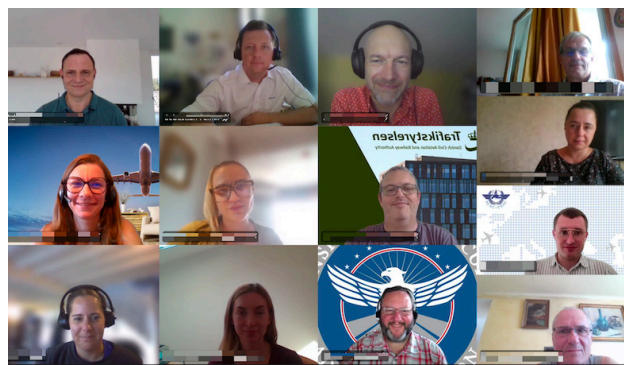


Cyber security experts at their meeting in Madrid in April 2023

## Training Task Force considers new training material

**Videoconference, 7-8 September** — A new document on the training aspects of the use of automated prohibited item detection (APID) software, and revised guidance material for developing an air carrier security training programme were on the agenda of the Training Task Force's last meeting of the year. As a follow-up to the task of updating guidance material on developing and implementing practical tests for certifying screeners, the task force is updating the list of test protocols and test items for assessing the practical competencies of screeners. These documents will be finalised by mid-October 2023.

The task force acknowledged the role of human factors and motivation of security personnel in the effective implementation of security measures. They also acknowledged the success of the ECAC workshop on training and certification of screeners (18-19 April 2023) and decided to organise a workshop on human factors and motivation in Paris in November 2024.



## Ambitious 2023 work programme for the Guidance Material Task Force

**Videoconference, 12-13 September** — New guidance on the use of the 3D Standard Test Piece and on the alarm resolution process of explosive detection systems for cabin baggage (EDSCB), and revised guidance material on organising and conducting covert tests were endorsed by the Guidance

Material Task Force at their meeting online in September.

Seven new documents were finalised at the end of September through written consultation, on topics such as trends analysis and sharing the results of compliance monitoring, and the

regulated agent security programme.

The revision of ten existing Doc 30, Part II – *Security Annexes* and Aviation Security Handbook documents will be completed in the coming weeks, resulting in a total of 41 tasks completed by the task force in 2023. ■





## Meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on Immigration

**Paris, 6 September** — Member State representatives attending the 65<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on Immigration reported on their progress in preparing for the implementation of the European Union's Entry Exit System, noting concerns that the final timeline is still unknown and in relation to the costs for States and the industry in establishing the required technology and resources.

Participants discussed updates to the current version of the Air Carrier Liability survey and latest updates on Passenger Name Record (PNR) data negotiations in relation to EU and non-EU Member States.

The meeting heard a presentation from the Netherlands on work under its National Facilitation Committee and participants agreed that – where possible – facilitation experts should continue to support and share best practice on National Facilitation Committee approaches across ECAC Member States.



Members of the Facilitation Sub-Group on immigration matters meet in Paris, 6 September 2023

## Facilitation experts consider PRM issues

**Paris, 7 and 8 September** — The Facilitation Sub-Group on the Transport of Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRMs) convened for its 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Participants discussed this year's findings on the PRM complaints survey and exchanged information on recent cases of PRM complaints arising as a result of issues such as denied boarding, inadequate assistance, and mobility equipment handling. The group agreed to carry out work on the topic of assistance dogs and it was confirmed that the topic of mobility aids would be considered for further discussion.

The sub-group meeting was followed the next day by the fourth meeting of the PRM Experts Group, which allowed for further discussion on assistance dogs with inputs from a wider group of industry experts and FAL sub-group members. Member States heard from industry on the challenges industry faces in providing PRM assistance. They heard about innovative approaches being taken to provide different levels of assistance according to specific passenger needs. Presentations were given on assistance dogs, proposals for a United Kingdom Airline Accessibility Framework, and the advocacy campaign, Rights on Flights. ■



Annual meeting of PRM experts in Paris, 8 September 2023

## Meeting of the ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in civil aviation



**Paris, 28-29 September** — The Network on Diversity and Inclusion in civil aviation (NETD&I) held its first in-person meeting in Paris in September. The objective of the meeting, chaired by Giovanna Laschena (Italy), was to finalise the final action points of the 2023 work programme and prepare a proposal for the 2024 work programme to

be presented to Directors General in December.

The two-day meeting involved a constructive and goal-oriented dialogue, which enabled the group to complete its remaining tasks and gain a clearer focus of its mission for the next year. During the meeting, the participants refined the 2022 survey on diversity and inclusion with a view to its launch at

the start of 2024. This now includes more targeted questions about Member States' D&I policies and their specific D&I needs.

The group also developed comprehensive guidelines on the best practices for inclusivity and recruitment processes to

be implemented within the civil aviation administrations of the Member States. Additionally, participants decided to schedule a new meeting specifically dedicated to analysing the results of the 2022 survey to identify existing gaps in the policies of the ECAC Member States. They also decided to propose orienting the 2024 Directors General Forum around the theme of D&I. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about the challenges faced by the national administration of the Network and the different solutions each of them is attempting to implement. Moving forward, the Network is committed to increased interaction with ECAC's sister organisations, industry stakeholders, and to actively liaise with Member States who are not yet members of the Network. The date for the next online meeting of the group has yet to be decided. ■

# What's on in October?

3-4	6 <sup>th</sup> Sustainable Aviation Fuels tailored workshop (ENV/SAF-T-WKSH/6), Belgrade	16-19	Pilot Facilitation Quality Assessment Programme (QAP) training course, Paris
4-5	59 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) Management Group (CEP-MG/59), videoconference	19	2 <sup>nd</sup> Unmanned Aircraft Systems Workshop, videoconference
5	33 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG/33), videoconference	19-20	40 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Forum (SF/40), Tirana
6	39 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD/39), videoconference	24-25	12 <sup>th</sup> ECAC/EU Dialogue with the European air transport industry, "Flying sustainably – from buzz to reality", Valencia
9	66 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/66), videoconference	25	20 <sup>th</sup> monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/20), videoconference
11-12	59 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Air Accident and Incident Investigation Group of Experts (ACC/59), Paris	25	5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM/5), Lisbon
11-12	86 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/86), Paris	26	48 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/48), videoconference
12	66 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Working Group (FAL/66), videoconference	30	39 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/39), videoconference

Join senior level aviation decision makers, industry leaders and aviation specialists at the 12<sup>th</sup> ECAC/EU Dialogue with the European air transport industry, "Flying sustainably – from buzz to reality", in Valencia, 24-25 October 2023




MINISTERIO DE TRANSPORTES, MOVILIDAD Y AGENDA URBANA



## 2023 ECAC/EU DIALOGUE

with the European air transport industry

Valencia, Spain  
24-25 October 2023



Flying sustainably – from buzz to reality

Registration

Programme

Information