



Directors General convene to review 2023 activities and look ahead to the challenges of the coming year



Paris, 7 December — The 161st meeting of ECAC Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/161) was focused on taking stock of the year's work and preparing for the challenges of the coming year. An expanded set of annual reports was presented to Directors General, including for the first time information papers on work in the cross-cutting domains of unmanned aircraft systems, diversity and inclusion, and communications, setting out the work done and to come.

The morning session included an open discussion on the subject of climate change adaptation. This discussion, noting the wide-ranging scope of the topic, took in the assessment of risks and the mitigation efforts already being carried out by ECAC Member States in relation to the possible economic, safety and other impacts of climate change, as well as the activities already begun by EUROCONTROL and EASA. Directors General agreed to gather more information to decide on next steps on this developing topic.

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As well as the usual updates on EU, ICAO and other matters, Directors General considered the outcomes of the Third ICAO Conference on Aviation Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3, Dubai, 20-24 November 2023). They noted that the headline outcome of a quantified reduction of 5% of

CO₂ emissions by 2030 could be regarded as a success, even though Europe's ambitions had been higher, and that the focus was now on delivery and implementation to make the target realisable.

Also on ICAO high-level events, planning began for the pursuit of European priorities at the 14th ICAO Air Navigation Conference (AN-Conf/14, 26 August – 6 September 2024); and in preparation for the ICAO Council elections at the 42nd

ICAO Assembly in 2025. Directors General agreed to renew their efforts towards ratification of the Protocols to expand the ICAO Council and Air Navigation Commission.

Directors General heard and gave guidance on progress of work on matters including development of the Convention on the Secretariat of ECAC and the Diplomatic Conference needed to create this legal instrument, on the evolution of ECAC's work on aviation security technology and equipment, and on various other organisational issues.

Colleagues from Ukraine also presented an update on the civil aviation situation following the invasion by the Russian Federation, and Directors General decided to renew the financial and practical assistance offered to Ukraine by ECAC in 2024.

Finally, draft proposals for the 2025-2027 ECAC work programme and budget were presented, with a view to their being finalised in time for agreement in April (DGCA/162, 25 April 2024) before formal adoption at the next Triennial Session (Strasbourg, 9-10 July 2024).




Familiarisation course for ECAC Member States

Paris, 6 December — A familiarisation course providing information and key facts on ECAC’s history, organisation and activities was conducted at the ECAC premises. This course has been designed for recently appointed Directors General and their team members who coordinate ECAC and other international matters and aims to acquaint them with all ECAC’s domains of activity.

The course had a strong focus on explaining the role of the Directors General within ECAC. It encompassed information on ECAC’s structure and functioning, budget and finances, communication activities, and external relations including cooperation with regional organisations such as ACAO, AFCAC, LACAC, WAEMU and key international partners, European organisations and industry stakeholders.

Experts from the ECAC Secretariat joined the meeting to present an overview of the main ECAC activities: security, facilitation, environment, safety and accident investigations, economic and legal matters, diversity and inclusion, and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). ■



Overview

Session 1:

- > Key facts about ECAC
- > ECAC Constitution and Rules of Procedure
- > Structure and functioning
- > Overview of ECAC activities
- > Communication
- > Other work priorities

Session 2:

- > Budget and finances
- > External relations

Familiarisation Course for Directors General

ECAC attends 50th anniversary of the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission



Lima, 14 December — The Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) held an extraordinary Assembly in Lima to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Created in 1973, LACAC has significantly contributed to the development of civil aviation both within its region and globally. The President and Executive Secretary of ECAC joined the Directors General of LACAC Member States to commemorate this milestone event and reiterated the valuable and productive cooperation between ECAC and LACAC across various aviation domains.

The ECAC Executive Secretary participated in a panel on “the role of women in commercial aviation”. This panel provided an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and good practices regarding the promotion of diversity and inclusion in aviation with colleagues from the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), LACAC, Chile and El

Salvador. It also served as a platform to share information about ECAC’s commitment and activities in this area.



ECAC meeting with Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia

Lima, 14 December — The 50th anniversary of LACAC also provided an opportunity for ECAC President Alessio Quaranta (pictured on the right) and Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy to meet with the Malaysian delegation, led by Captain MD Jani Nin Md Dom, Deputy Chief Executive

Officer (regulatory) (pictured on the left), to discuss areas of mutual interest. Further cooperation was explored in various domains, such as remote tower operations and aviation security. These discussions are set to continue at the expert level in early 2024. ■



ENVIRONMENT

Presentation on EU RefuelEU aviation initiative at monthly ECAC environment familiarisation webinar

Videoconference, 6 December — The December edition of ECAC's monthly environmental familiarisation webinars focused on a detailed examination of the EU's ReFuelEU Aviation Regulation. This new regulation, centred on the promotion and industrial scale-up of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) in the European Union, was approved by the European Parliament on 18 October 2023. It was subsequently published in the Official EU Journal on 31 October 2023 and will be effective from 1 January 2024.



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Insights during the webinar were provided by officers from the European Commission's Aviation Policy Unit (DG MOVE), Ewa Oney, Team Leader Sustainable Aviation and Alexis Chausteur, Policy Analyst Sustainable Aviation.

Ms Oney and Mr Chausteur explained that this regulation was part of a legislative package aimed at aligning the EU's policies with the goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels – known as the *Fit for 55* package. The package seeks to ensure a level playing field for sustainable air transport by requiring jet-fuel suppliers to progressively distribute a growing share of SAF (including synthetic aviation fuels, or e-fuels), and encouraging airlines to increase SAF uptake, thus reducing emissions from aviation.

This initiative is in line with the recent quantified and collective vision of the

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) agreed at the third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) in November 2023. The vision aims to achieve a 5% reduction in CO₂ emissions through the use of SAF and other cleaner energies in aviation.

Additionally, airlines will need to avoid what is commonly known as "tankering", by limiting the intake of jet fuel when departing from EU airports to what is necessary for safe operation of flights. This approach aims to avoid additional emissions associated with the extra weight of aircraft carrying excessive fuel.

One hundred and ten participants joined this webinar, which included a useful exchange of questions and comments between the audience and the speakers.

ECAC environment experts agree on a work plan for updating the ECAC/EU guidelines on State Action Plans in 2024

Videoconference, 12 December — Members of the ECAC/EU Action Plans for Emissions Reduction (APER) Task Group have reached an agreement on a work plan for 2024 aimed at updating the ECAC/EU guidelines on State Action Plans.

Following a request from Directors General to harmonise the Common Section of European State Action Plans for emissions reductions with the EASA European Aviation and Environmental Report (EAER) to be published in early 2025, the APER Task Group was reactivated to commence work towards revising the ECAC/EU guidelines. The objective is to promote the European approach for updating States Action Plans for CO₂ emissions

reduction from international aviation. The plan includes close cooperation with EASA and alignment between both processes.

During its 17th meeting, the task group also agreed that a next important step to be taken in early 2024 will be to consider any updates in ICAO Guidance Document 9988, which is currently under revision. Additionally, updating all ECAC focal points for State Action Plans will be on the group's agenda, along with determining the exact dates for the delivery of the Common Section.

A workshop is scheduled to take place in February 2024. ■

Best practices for cargo inspectors training course for national auditors from Ukraine

Warsaw, 11-13 December — To assist national auditors from the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine (SAAU) in maintaining practical competencies for conducting compliance monitoring activities, the ECAC Secretariat organised a three-day aviation security training course titled “Best Practices for Cargo Inspectors” in Warsaw. The training course was hosted by the Civil Aviation Authority of Poland, which also provided an experienced security expert to participate as an instructor.

The course included several theoretical modules that covered an overview of the cargo supply chain, key threats, and security measures applied to address

the threats. Additionally, it offered an overview of Doc 30, Part II — *Security* provisions on cargo security. Special emphasis was placed on reviewing best practices for inspecting cargo and mail screening and protection.

The theoretical components were complemented by various classroom activities and a practical exercise conducted at the premises of a regulated agent. ■



What's on in January?

Calendar

- 16 70th meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/70), videoconference
- 16 15th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL/15), videoconference
- 16-17 60th meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/60), Dublin
- 24 22nd monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/22), videoconference
- 30 48th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/48), videoconference



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



@ECACceac

