



EXTERNAL RELATIONS

ECAC representation at the second Arab environmental forum

Marrakech, 26-27 February — The Arab Civil Aviation Organization (ACAO) organised the Second Arab Forum for Environmental Protection in the Arab Civil Aviation Industry in Marrakech on 26-27 February. Deputy Executive Secretary, Mark Rodmell, represented ECAC in a scene-setting opening session, which considered the future trajectory following key decisions made at the 41st ICAO Assembly and CAAF/3.

The session also looked at the longer-term role of out-of-sector measures, and the importance of capacity building in progressing towards the long-term

global aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

On the second day, Jesper van Manen (Netherlands) represented ECAC on expert panels addressing sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and the practicalities of capacity building and other implementation support.

This event showcased strong European representation from a range of agencies, underlining the high level of cooperation between ECAC and ACAO, particularly on environmental matters.

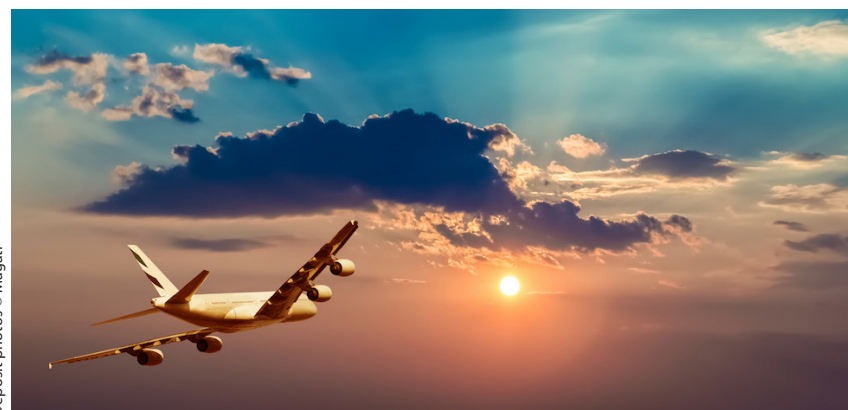
Changi Aviation Summit and Singapore Airshow

Singapore, 18-21 February — ECAC president, Alessio Quaranta, joined by vice-presidents, Johann Friedrich Colmsan and Rannia Leontaridi alongside several directors general including from Romania and Serbia, participated in this year's edition of the Changi Aviation Summit, and attended the opening of the Singapore Airshow. The Summit featured several thought-provoking panel discussions, notably on the key challenges the aviation sector will face in a post-pandemic world, as well as the role of technology in transforming the sector in the coming years. Innovation and investments in technology emerged as priorities for all actors in the sector, particularly to drive the decarbonisation of the aviation industry. ■

ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

Funding and standardisation proposals discussed at EMTO Task Force meeting

Videoconference, 13 February — The ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO) completed the development of its proposals on future funding of the Common Evaluation Process for security equipment and on the standardisation of terms of reference and rules of procedure for ECAC working groups. Both proposals will be presented to the Coordinating Committee, along with the nomination of Marina Köster (Germany) as deputy chair of the task force. ■



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ECAC webinar: Government Policy Toolkit to Accelerate Uptake of Electric and Hydrogen Aircraft

Videoconference, 6 February — Since 2014, ECAC has fostered a Cooperation Arrangement with Indonesia's Directorate General of Civil Aviation, a collaboration



further strengthened in 2021 with the launch of the ECAC capacity-building programme for environment.

As part of this cooperative framework, a webinar was recently organised with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Aviation Environmental Federation (AEF) for the benefit of DGCA Indonesia. This event aimed to explore policy measures conducive to accelerating the uptake of electric and hydrogen-powered aircraft as part of the process towards achieving ICAO's 2050 net-zero emissions goal for international aviation.

Alejandro de Quero Cordero, Sustainability Lead for Aerospace and Drones at the World Economic Forum, and Tim Johnson, Director of the Aviation Environment Federation, presented the Policy Toolkit to Accelerate Electric and Hydrogen Aircraft. This toolkit, a collaborative effort by WEF and AEF, developed in conjunction with other industry stakeholders as part of WEF's

Target True Zero initiative, was designed to support governments in formulating their electric and hydrogen aircraft strategies thereby contributing to the ICAO net-zero objective.

A key takeaway from the discussion emphasised the need to promote sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) as a short-term policy priority. However, it also underlined that concerted efforts to raise awareness among stakeholders and implement policy actions are equally essential in the short term to facilitate the future development of electric and hydrogen aircraft, which will play a pivotal role in aviation's sustainable evolution. This is particularly relevant for regions like the Indonesian archipelago, where short-haul flights ensure social connectivity.

The webinar attracted over 40 participants and led to an engaging dialogue session.

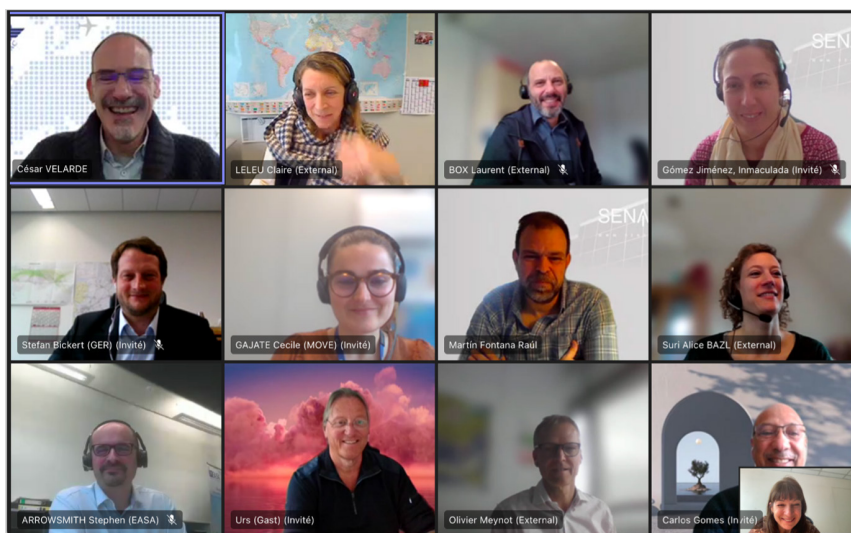
State Action Plans experts prepare a paper outlining the methodology and assumptions for the common section, baseline and scenarios of the 2024 ECAC/EU Guidelines on State Action Plans

Videoconference, 26 February — During its 18th meeting, the ECAC/EU Action Plans for Emissions Reduction (APER) Task Group outlined the methodology, assumptions and key components for the common section, baseline and scenarios of the 2024 ECAC/EU Guidelines on State Action Plans. The group agreed on the contents of a paper designed to inform the Expanded European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG Expanded).

During the discussions, the group addressed the anticipated updates to the ICAO Guidance on State Action Plans (Doc 9988). Despite initial expectations for its release at the end of 2023, the revised guidance is still to be made available.

A dedicated workshop in Paris on 28 and 29 February 2024 (ENV-WKSHP-SAP/4) will update ECAC Member States on the latest progress made by the APER Task Group.

At the close of the meeting, participants warmly thanked César Velarde for his support and dedication to the group over the past years. This gathering marked his final contribution before departing from the ECAC Secretariat at the end of February.



Training on sustainable aviation fuels for North Macedonia

Skopje, 20-21 February — The Civil Aviation Agency of North Macedonia recently hosted the eighth training focusing on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), organised by the ECAC Capacity-Building Programme for Environment.

The training drew 24 participants from diverse national bodies, including the Civil Aviation Agency, various ministries (transportation, economy, environment, and agriculture), industry stakeholders (including airports, airlines, fuel suppliers), representatives of civil society (NGOs), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) mission in Skopje.

Structured around the content and recommendations outlined in the [ECAC Guidance on Sustainable Aviation Fuels](#) published in February 2023, the training served as a platform for constructive national discussion, exploring and identifying opportunities and next steps to foster SAF in North Macedonia.

A notable immediate follow-up action was the proposal to establish a national SAF working group to develop a SAF national roadmap.

The big picture of emissions accounting for future aircraft propulsion systems

Videoconference, 14 February — The 23rd edition of the monthly familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment focused on the task of estimating life-cycle emissions for both future aircraft propulsion systems and conventional gas turbine propulsion systems using sustainable aviation fuels (SAF).

The session highlighted the pivotal role of these assessments in seeking to reduce fossil CO₂ emissions in aviation.

Theo Rindlisbacher, physicist and scientific advisor on emissions, air quality and climate at the Swiss Federal Office of Civil

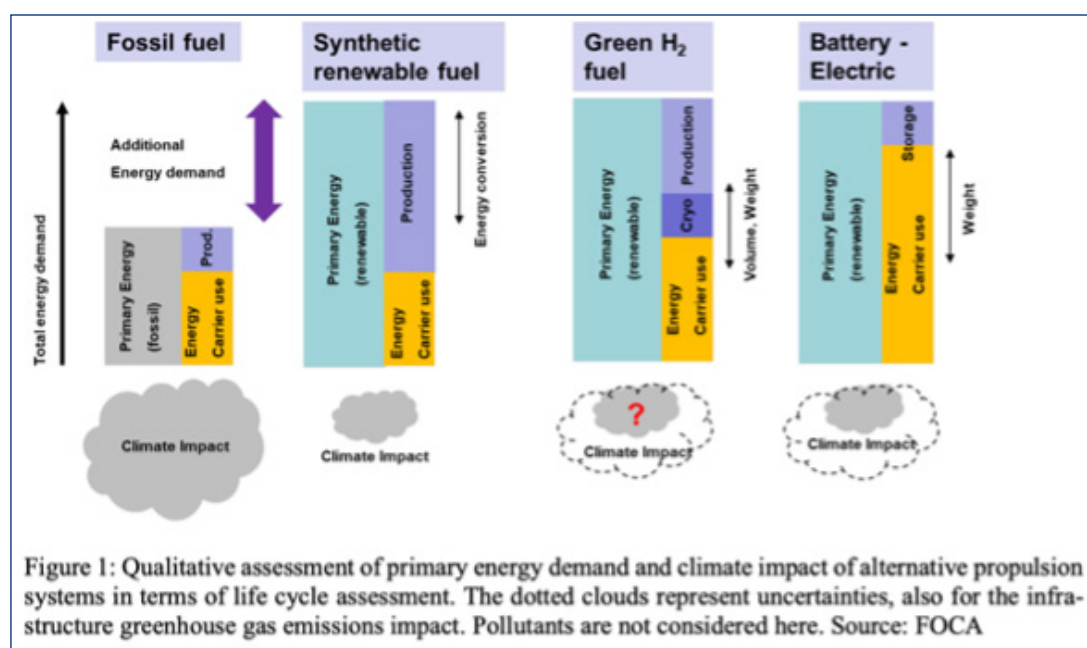
Aviation (FOCA), was the invited speaker. Drawing over 80 participants, the webinar facilitated a robust exchange of questions and insights between the audience and the presenter.

A key takeaway emerging from the discussions was that emission performance comparisons between different propulsion solutions are complex and intricately linked to the life-cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity of electricity, which in many European countries is very high.

Mr Rindlisbacher shared the findings of a simplified assessment conducted

by FOCA, which revealed that for all propulsion alternatives, the primary energy demand approximately doubles in comparison to the energy content of fossil fuels. This increase encompasses the energy requirements for extraction, refinery, transport and storage.

In the second part of the webinar, Mr Rindlisbacher shared his first-hand insights gleaned from practical engagement with electric flight technologies, drawing from his experience representing FOCA in the testing of the Pipistrel Velis Electro aircraft specifications. ■



ECAC Facilitation Focal Point convenes the Facilitation Programme Management Group

Videoconference, 20 February — David Benito (DGCA Spain) recently met with the chairs of the Facilitation Working Group and its sub-groups on Immigration and Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) for the first time since assuming the role of Focal Point for Facilitation in September 2023.

During the meeting, discussions revolved around the facilitation work programmes for 2024. Particular attention was

paid to key ongoing activities aimed at preparing for the ICAO Facilitation Panel in Montreal from 26 February to 1 March 2024. Focus was also placed on the upcoming joint ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT workshop on National Facilitation Programmes and Committees set to be hosted by Greece on 12 March 2024.

The group deliberated on the challenges and opportunities for progressing key issues in ECAC's facilitation agenda over

the coming 12 months. It considered the structure of meetings, as well as strategies to advance new areas of work as outlined in commitments made at the end of 2023, such as State-led assistance to air accident victims, and further review of ECAC Doc 30, Part I (Facilitation).

ECAC experts at the 13th ICAO Facilitation Panel



Montreal, 26 February – 1 March — ICAO closed its 13th Facilitation Panel session on Friday 1 March following five days of intensive discussions covering topics from assistance to people with disabilities, air cargo procedures, crew treatment and visas, to the implementation of Annex 9 SARPs. There was strong regional participation from ECAC Member States with 19 panel members and observers in attendance.

ECAC experts met three times in January and February 2024 prior to the panel under the European Coordination Group on Facilitation. The purpose of these meetings was to provide support for individual State-nominated experts by sharing views on submitted papers and updating each other on related issues and developments under ICAO's facilitation work programme.

The Panel provided an important opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing work for facilitation in 2024, including under the banner of ICAO's Year of Facilitation 2024.

Decisions were taken on the establishment of a new ICAO group, the Facilitation Capacity-Building Working Group. It was also agreed that the Working Group on Accessibility in International Civil Aviation would consider the topics of assistance dogs and quality assessment programmes within its work programme.

It was, however, also clear from the Panel that there were a large number of ongoing areas of work – including those agreed at the 41st Assembly in 2022 – and challenges that would require further cooperation between States and ICAO to address collectively. The Panel called for more frequent sessions in order to support this, and it was stated that an ICAO high-level facilitation meeting is provisionally expected to be scheduled for the first quarter of 2025. ■

Technical Task Force discusses work priorities in transition period

Videoconference, 13 February — The Technical Task Force (TTF) convened to review advancements made within its 2023 work programme and discuss work priorities for 2024, particularly those to be delivered during a transition period preceding implementation of the updated terms of reference and rules of procedure of ECAC working groups. A key aspect of the changes involves the evolution of recent TTF study groups into more flexible, project-centric expert teams, which would be able to swiftly address Member States' technology imperatives as identified by the Security Forum and its newly established Threat Response Group.

Aviation security experts' preparations for ICAO events

Videoconference, 15 February — The European Coordination Group on Aviation Security (ECG-AS) began the process of preparations for the 35th Aviation Security Panel (Montreal, 22-26 April 2024), noting advancements made on the review of the ICAO Global Aviation Security Plan (GASeP).

The group took steps to set up links with the European coordination groups for the ICAO Facilitation Panel and the ICAO Air Navigation Conference, to ensure that cross-domain items were dealt with effectively through these processes.

Third training on risk management in aviation security

Paris, 20-22 February — A group of eight security experts from Austria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Republic of Moldova and Slovakia gathered at the ECAC premises in February for a training course on Best Practices for Risk Management in Aviation Security.

This course provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of both existing and emerging threats to aviation, along with insights into current trends

and effective risk management processes. Attendees familiarised themselves with an example of the risk assessment methodology, as well as best practices for establishing and implementing risk-based security oversight, assessing risks across various domains of aviation security.

Furthermore, the course presented good practices for developing and implementing mitigating measures outlined in ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security).

The participants appreciated the opportunity to acquire practical knowledge and enhance their competencies in risk management. They thanked the instructors from the ECAC Secretariat and the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC), whose expertise and first-hand experience were a valuable contribution to the course.



New documents on enhancing behaviour detection practices to be developed in 2024

Videoconference, 28-29 February — The Behaviour Detection Study Group will develop several new documents in 2024 for insertion in the ECAC Aviation Security Handbook. These documents, discussed during the 37th meeting of the study group in February, encompass guidelines and initiatives aimed at enhancing behaviour detection practices. Among these are guidelines for red teaming in behaviour detection, guidelines for conducting effective interviews and on the role of the interviewer, and a list of research initiatives/studies and research papers on behaviour detection. Furthermore, in 2024 the study group aims to

develop mentoring guidelines in behaviour detection to improve the mentoring activity offered to Member States.

The appointment of Jenny Krüger (Germany) as the new moderator of the Behaviour Detection Study Group was met with enthusiasm by participants. Recognising her professional expertise and dedication, they expressed confidence in her ability to uphold the performance of the study group and deliver its work programme for the collective benefit of ECAC Member States. ■

ECAC experts kick off a busy year for legal matters

Videoconference, 16 February — The 49th meeting of the ECAC Legal Task Force recently convened virtually to discuss the busy year ahead for ECAC's legal experts. Deliberations began with a comprehensive review of the 2024 work programme, which will see further commitment to exchange information crucial for supporting individual States in addressing intricate legislative and regulatory questions, including on the ratification of ICAO international legal instruments and protocols.

The meeting reconfirmed that discussions were underway to prepare for the ICAO Third Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF3) set to be hosted by the United Kingdom in November

2024. Discussions also began regarding the ICAO Legal Committee, scheduled in June 2024, with participants agreeing to organise a briefing session coinciding with the next Legal Task Force meeting in May to ensure that all ECAC legal experts are fully prepared for the meeting.

Advancements specific to ECAC were highlighted during the meeting, including the decision to trial a question-driven approach to establish a database for Legal Task Force members, facilitating the exchange of insights and experience in order to tackle more complex national legal issues effectively. ■

What's on in March?

Calendar

- 12 Joint ECAC-ICAO EUR/NAT Workshop on National Facilitation Programmes and Committees, Athens
- 12 60th meeting of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process of security equipment Management Group - Day 1 (CEP-MG/60), videoconference
- 12 35th meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG/35), Brussels
- 13 68th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – Expanded (EAEG/68 EXP), videoconference
- 13 68th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – with stakeholders (EAEG-CAEP/68 STK), videoconference
- 13 68th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG-CAEP/68), videoconference
- 14-15 55th meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/55), videoconference
- 18 73rd meeting of the Facilitation Sub-Group on Persons with Reduced Mobility (FAL-PRM-SG/73), videoconference
- 18 6th meeting of the Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation (NETD&I/6), videoconference
- 21 57th meeting of the Facilitation Sub-group on Immigration (FAL-IMMIGRAT-SG/57), videoconference
- 21 60th meeting of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process of security equipment Management Group - Day 2 (CEP-MG/60), videoconference
- 27 200th meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/200), Paris
- 28 72nd meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/72), videoconference



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