



# ECAC NEWSPOINT #11

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### ECAC Coordinating Committee prepares for 2025-2027 triennium

**Paris, 2 November** — The Coordinating Committee's focus in its November meeting (CC/199) was on preparations for the 2025-2027 ECAC work programme and budget, and other financial matters. It agreed the submission of proposals by ECAC's Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force to the next meeting of Directors General, and requested EMTO to develop a broader proposal for long-term sustainable funding of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) for security equipment.

Among other matters, the Committee also appointed Charles Pace (DGCA Malta) as chair of the JAA TO Foundation Board, and agreed that Damien Cazé (DGCA France) would represent ECAC on the ACI Airport Carbon Accreditation programme. ■



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## ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

### Security technology and finance matters on the EMTO agenda

**Videoconference, 8 November** — Discussions at the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives (EMTO) Task Force's November meeting (EMTO/69) centred on planning the work it had been commissioned to do by the Coordinating Committee at its meeting the previous week (CC/199, 2 November 2023). It agreed the finalisation of the budget

and work programme proposals to be presented to Directors General, and decided to take stock of the outcome of a discussion on the evolution of ECAC's security technology work. It also started discussing developing a broader funding proposal for the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) for security equipment. ■

## SECURITY

### Training on covert testing in Bratislava

**Bratislava, 14-16 November** — Aviation security auditors from Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Slovakia attended the Best Practices on Covert Testing course organised with the aim to enhance participants' understanding of covert testing methodologies.

Through a series of classroom sessions and practical activities conducted at Bratislava Airport and the premises of a regulated

agent, the attendees gained practical experience in conducting covert tests across different aviation security areas, following established protocols and employing recommended approaches. The course also included a review of lessons learnt and best practices associated with developing test protocols, mitigating risks related to covert testing, and utilising various test items.



## Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group discusses changes to the EDD threat list

**Lisbon, 13-14 November** — The need to update the explosive detection dogs (EDD) threat list (a list of substances that should be detected by EDDs) was the focus of discussions at the recent EDD Study Group meeting in Lisbon, with participants agreeing on several modifications. Additionally, the group reviewed the next steps for delivering on their tasks for 2024, and finalised the schedule for meetings in 2024.



## Training for national security auditors in Brussels

**Brussels, 28-30 November** — A *Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 2 (BPNA-2)* course was hosted by the Belgian Civil Aviation Authority in November. The course aimed to enhance the competencies of security auditors from Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Iceland, the Netherlands, and Slovakia in conducting national compliance monitoring activities. Particular attention was paid to refining practical skills related to inspecting/auditing passenger and cabin baggage screening, security controls (including screening) of airport supplies, and the deployment and use of security equipment.

Throughout various classroom activities and discussions, participants reviewed recent changes to ECAC Doc 30, Part II — *Security* recommendations, lessons learnt, and best practices for conducting security inspections and audits. They also shared their experiences in overseeing the implementation of security measures.

## Cyber security in aviation training course



**Videoconference, 21-23 November** — The ECAC Secretariat, with contributions from cyber security experts from Poland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, organised a training session in November dedicated to inspecting and auditing cyber security in aviation. Eight aviation security auditors from the Netherlands, Portugal and Serbia participated in this online *Best Practices for National Auditors – Cyber Security (basic)* course.

The course aimed to empower participants with a deeper comprehension of cyber threats impacting civil aviation. This included insights into cyber threat actors, potential threat scenarios, and fundamental components of cyber risk management.

Through a combination of theoretical presentations, discussions, and virtual activities, participants gained foundational knowledge about organisational measures concerning cyber threats. This encompassed protective measures to be adopted by operators and entities in addressing cyber threats, covering aspects such as security by design, supply chain security, access control, fostering a cyber security culture, cyber incident detection and response, among others. Additionally, the training encompassed best practices for preparing more effectively for inspecting or auditing cyber security measures within aviation and for conducting on-site inspections/audits. ■



Security auditors attending Best Practices - Level 2 training in Brussels, 28-30 November 2023

## ECAC Secretariat supports DGCA France building SAF capacity in French-speaking countries



speaking States. Approximately 45 participants from French-speaking countries worldwide actively participated in the Forum.

The first day of this two-day event, conducted entirely in French, was dedicated to sustainable aviation fuels. The ECAC presentation was delivered within a panel discussion focused on promoting the use of SAF and examining the role of public authorities in this regard.

**Videoconference, 6 November** — The ECAC Secretariat was invited by DGCA France to present on the ECAC Guidance on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and its policy recommendations at the virtual Forum on Emerging Topics in Aviation (*Forum sur les sujets émergents dans l'aviation*) held on 6-7 November. This forum was specifically tailored for civil aviation authorities and stakeholders from French-

This involvement in supporting the DGCA's capacity-building efforts aligns with both ECAC's capacity-building programme for the environment and the strategic outreach priorities established by Director General in May 2023.

## Workshop on sustainable aviation fuels for experts from Albania

**Tirana, 14-15 November** — The seventh on-site workshop on sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), provided by the Secretariat's Capacity-Building Programme for Environment, was successfully conducted at the premises of the Civil Aviation Authority of Albania.

The training covered the contents and recommendations outlined in the ECAC

Guidance on SAF, published in February 2023. It was followed by a productive national discussion that identified potential opportunities for promoting SAF within Albania.

Fifteen participants from various national bodies attended the training, including representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority, different ministries and agencies (Transportation and

Energy, Finance, National, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the National Air Traffic Agency, ALBCONTROL), as well as industry stakeholders such as airports, airlines, and fuel suppliers. ■



## Economic Working Group considers air transport and economic matters, ECAC market liberalisation toolkit, and ground handling policies

**Videoconference, 17 November** — The Economic Working Group (ECO) met online for its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to exchange information on air transport and economic market matters and to take stock of the 2023 work programme. Discussion was had on the latest draft of the ECAC market liberalisation toolkit, which was in the process of being updated to include guidance for Member States on air traffic rights and ownership and control.

The meeting agreed to issue a survey for Member States to establish a baseline of knowledge and understanding of current ground handling regulation and policies as applied in Europe. This will allow the group to consider further where specific issues for the ground handling market exist, and to develop ideas as to how they could be addressed.

In looking ahead to next year, the group also

identified key areas of interest for inviting external speakers to address ECO members at its next online information session in 2024. These included exploring, from an economic and market perspective, global distribution systems in aviation and market resilience for navigation and guidance systems. ■

## European Coordination Group on Facilitation discussions ahead of 2024 ICAO Facilitation Panel

**Videoconference, 20 November** — The European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL) was convened to initiate its discussions ahead of the ICAO Facilitation Panel on 26 February – 1 March 2024 in Montreal. Participants reviewed ICAO's

agenda, and agreed there were several topics of interest to individual ECAC Member States, as well as to ECAC as a whole.

The meeting saw an agreement for an ECAC paper to be submitted to the Facilitation

Panel on the topic of quality assessments of services to persons with reduced mobility (PRMs), following the decision to launch the ECAC Quality Assessment Programme (QAP) officially in 2024. ■

## What's on in December?

Calendar

- 4/ Ad hoc meeting of the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security matters (ECG-AS), videoconference
- 6/ 21<sup>st</sup> Familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/21)
- 6/ 12<sup>th</sup> Familiarisation Course for Directors General (FAMCOURSE/12), Paris
- 7/ 161<sup>st</sup> meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/161), Paris



## NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT



**Elena Bratikova** joined the ECAC Secretariat on 1 December 2023 as an administrative assistant. She has over 15 years of professional experience in Brussels including roles within the European space sector and international organisations, as well as working with the European Union institutions and several representations of the Member States before the EU.

Elena holds a master's degree in European Studies from KU Leuven with a focus on international relations. She is enthusiastic about applying her knowledge to support the ECAC Secretariat's daily activities, particularly in finance and administration. ■

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

