



ECAC NEWSPOINT #07-08

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news

 DIRECTORS GENERAL

Directors General gather in Bern for ECAC's 74th Special meeting



Bern, 28-30 August 2025 — The 74th Special meeting of ECAC's Directors General took place in Bern at the end of August, hosted by Director General Christian Hegnner on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA). Directors General were joined by representatives from the European Commission, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), EUROCONTROL, ICAO and JAA TO.

The meeting was honoured to welcome Albert Rösti, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC). He highlighted the crucial role of international cooperation in European aviation and emphasised that ECAC's greatest strength lies

in uniting 44 Member States to speak with a single voice – a unity that will be essential at the upcoming 42nd ICAO Assembly.

With the ICAO Assembly scheduled for September and October, a significant share of the discussions focused on Europe's strategic priorities. Participants reviewed Europe's preparations and discussed its position on critical issues in the global aviation landscape. The two known candidates for the ICAO Council presidency elections, Toshiyuki Onuma (Japan) and Sameh Elhefny (Egypt), were invited to the session to share their priorities and ambitions for ICAO's future, while ICAO Secretary General Juan-Carlos Salazar provided insights into ICAO's aviation developments.

Directors General also agreed on the main orientations for the evolution of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment, endorsed the declaration on cooperation with regional civil aviation organisations, and discussed other ICAO-related matters.

EUROCONTROL shared insights on air traffic performance for summer 2025, while EASA reported on recent safety initiatives and underlined its strong ICAO audit (USOAP) results.

The ECAC Secretariat also reported on ongoing activities, including progress on the signing of the Convention on the Bureau of the European Civil Aviation Conference, implementation of the CASE II Project and the design of a future EU-funded and ECAC-implemented project, and developments concerning Secretariat staff.

The meeting provided a valuable platform for preparing Europe's contributions to the ICAO Assembly and reinforcing cooperation among Member States.

New Coordinating Committee member

A warm welcome to **Henri van Faassen** (DGCA Netherlands), who was appointed as a member of the ECAC Coordinating Committee during the 74th Special meeting of Directors General in Bern (28-30 August 2025).



Inside

- Special meeting of Directors General in Bern
- Signature of the Convention on the Bureau of ECAC
- Overview of ECAC's monthly activities
- Outreach activities
- What's on in September?



Member States sign ECAC Convention

Bern, 28-29 August 2025 — In the margins of the 74th Special meeting of Directors General in Bern, 11 ECAC Member States signed the Convention on the Bureau of the European Civil Aviation Conference. The signatory States were (from top left below) Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Georgia, Iceland, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

This milestone comes after several years of negotiations, concluded during the Diplomatic Conference held in Paris on 20-22 May 2025 that resulted in the text now open for signature. The Convention reflects Member States' commitment to strengthen ECAC's role in supporting civil aviation across Europe.

The next step is ratification, a crucial phase that will bring the Convention into

force once 22 Member States have ratified it. Member States that have not yet signed may still do so before that threshold is reached, and the Convention will remain open for accession thereafter.

Looking ahead, the Convention provides a renewed basis for cooperation, ensuring that ECAC continues to advance European civil aviation with stability, coordination and a shared commitment to excellence. ●



Coordinating Committee welcomes new member and sets key activities for 2026

Bern, 28 August 2025 — Gathering in the margins of the 74th Special meeting of Directors General, the Coordinating Committee welcomed its new member, Henri van Faassen (DGCA Netherlands), and reviewed transitional arrangements for implementation of the new ECAC Convention.

Looking ahead to ECAC events in 2026, and thanking the Republic of Moldova for its kind invitation, the Committee agreed that the 75th Special DGCA meeting would

be hosted by the Republic of Moldova at the end of August 2026. It also decided to organise an ECAC/EU Dialogue with the air transport industry, in cooperation with the European Commission, in the second half of the year. Preparation for this event with industry partners will begin shortly to define an engaging and stimulating programme.

On financial matters, the Committee reviewed recent expenditure and the outcome of the execution of the 2024

ECAC budget, and will continue to examine longer-term funding of CEP activities, particularly to support R&D activities and improve overall CEP efficiency. ●

European preparations ahead of the 42nd ICAO Assembly

July and August 2025 — In the run-up to the 42nd ICAO Assembly, European coordination groups continued their preparation work to shape a strong, positive and constructive regional contribution.

Meetings were held across the aviation security, cyber, facilitation, environment, safety and economic domains. Participants reviewed the papers submitted by other States and organisations, alongside Europe's preliminary comments. The discussions gave participants the chance to react to the initial inputs, anticipate potential challenges, and consider how positions should develop in response.

The aviation security and cyber security groups assessed common security priorities and outreach initiatives, while the European Aviation and Environment Working Group discussed draft ICAO resolutions and engagement with international partners. Across all groups, participants



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provided updates on European preparations and the coordination planned in the weeks ahead of the Assembly.

Further meetings are scheduled in September, when positions will be refined and consolidated before the Assembly opens. ●

ECAC continues aviation security cooperation with DGCA Peru

Lima, 30 June-4 July 2025 — As part of its ongoing cooperation with Peru's Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), ECAC provided support to national experts in strengthening the country's aviation security system, particularly following the opening of the new terminal at Lima Airport.

Nine national auditors from the DGCA took part in the ECAC Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 training course. The course was led by two experienced instructors from the Irish Aviation Authority and the ECAC Secretariat, whose expertise enriched the programme. Participants deepened their understanding of the roles, powers and responsibilities of national auditors, while developing their skills in conducting national compliance monitoring activities and benefiting from the valuable exchange between European experience and best practices, and Peruvian experience.

The programme introduced participants to key elements of inspection and audit methodology, preparation for inspections and audits, information gathering, debriefing procedures, compliance assessment, and report writing.

A mix of theoretical sessions, table-top exercises and hands-on activities at the airport gave participants practical exposure to best practices in inspecting passenger and cabin baggage screening, hold baggage screening and protection, and passenger and baggage reconciliation.

The course also enhanced auditors' unders-

tanding of security technologies, including their capabilities and limitations in detecting prohibited items. During the practical exercises at Lima Airport, they practised gathering information on the use of advanced security equipment for screening. ECAC looks forward to continuing its cooperation with DGCA Peru on aviation security matters. ●



Member States share EFOD experience to strengthen implementation

Videoconference, 4 July 2025 — Members of the Facilitation Working Group from 15 ECAC Member States participated in a special workshop designed to strengthen their capacity to complete ICAO Electronic Filing of Differences (EFOD) where required. The workshop focused on filing differences related to ICAO Annex 9 Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

Group discussion drew on examples of EFOD processes and systems for recording and tracking SARPs against national legislation, as well as

identifying differences across government agencies, departments and other organisations with such responsibilities.

Practical challenges for States in completing EFOD duties efficiently and effectively were also explored, including how to develop evidence trails for use during ICAO audits. By the end of the session, participants agreed that the key findings and best practices identified would be shared further through the Facilitation Working Group at its next meeting this autumn. ●



ECAC attends High-Level Aviation Week in Singapore



Singapore, 13-16 July 2025 — ECAC President Alessio Quaranta and Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy took part in the High-Level Aviation Week organised by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

The programme featured several key events, including the Global Aviation and Maritime Symposium, which hosted a fascinating discussion between the secretaries general of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and ICAO, as well as the ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Regional Training Symposium.

The 3rd Asia-Pacific Summit for Aviation Safety also provided an opportunity for the ECAC President to exchange views with counterparts from other regions (Arab Civil Aviation Organization, African Civil Aviation Commission and Latin American Civil Aviation Commission) and States, sharing European perspectives and experience on improving safety. The Summit also offered an excellent occasion to explore the safety aspects and challenges of innovation and AI integration in civil aviation.

Sustainability in focus at 60th Asia-Pacific DGCA conference in Sendai

Sendai, 28 July – 1 August 2025 — The 60th Conference of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the Asia-Pacific region took place in Sendai, hosted by the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau and the ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Office.

Opened by Minister Nakano of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the Conference was held under the theme “Sustainable skies of the Asia-Pacific region” and brought together more than 300 participants from 35 States and regions, and 12 international organisations.

ECAC Executive Secretary Patricia Reverdy joined the opening days of the event, where sustainability and emerging technologies were central topics of discussion. She also held several bilateral discussions with States and organisations in preparation for the upcoming 42nd ICAO Assembly.

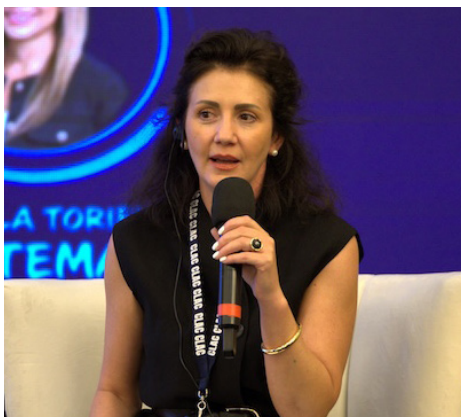


ECAC at LACAC Women’s Summit

Guatemala City, 18 August 2025 — ECAC contributed to the I Women’s Summit hosted by the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC), joining the panel on “Participation and Leadership” alongside global representation from both national aviation authorities and international organisations.

Representing the ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation (NETD&I), deputy chair, Alina Arsenii (Republic of Moldova) (*below left*), shared ECAC’s key initiatives, including the DEI Charter, tailored training, and KPI-based monitoring to support its Member States.

The Summit featured interactive working groups and highlighted the value of cross-regional collaboration in advancing gender equality and inclusive leadership in aviation. ●



A warm welcome to new ECAC trainee!



Madison James joined the ECAC team on 18 August as a communications trainee. Over the next three months, she will be creating content for ECAC's social media channels, supporting the publication of *News Point* and *ECAC News*, and working to enhance the organisation's digital communications strategy. Madison recently completed a master's

degree in journalism and has an undergraduate degree in politics and French. Moreover, she previously worked in communications at EURORDIS, a rare disease NGO based in Paris. She is looking forward to promoting ECAC initiatives and engaging with key stakeholders within civil aviation on an international level. ●



What's on in September?

calendar

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| 1-2 | I 8 th Environmental Forum (ENVFORUM/8), Brussels |
| 2-3 | I 6 th Behaviour Detection Research and Development Workshop, Berlin/videoconference |
| 3 | I 21 st meeting of the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security (ECG-AS/21), videoconference |
| 3 | I 84 th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment (Expanded) Working Group (EAEG/84(EXP)), Brussels |
| 3-4 | I 42 nd meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group (BDSG/42), Berlin/videoconference |
| 3-5 | I ECAC Quality Assessment Programme on assistance to persons with disabilities and persons with reduced I mobility (QAP Assessment), Vilnius |
| 4 | I 44 th meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG/44), videoconference |
| 10 | I 53 rd meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security (CYBER/53), videoconference |
| 11 | I 22 nd meeting of the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security (ECG-AS/22), videoconference |
| 12 | I 45 th meeting of the European Safety and Air Navigation Coordination Group (ESANCG/45), Brussels/videoconference |
| 12 | I 54 th meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/54), Lisbon/videoconference |
| 16-18 | I 46 th meeting of the Explosive Detection Dogs Study Group (EDD/46), videoconference |
| 18-19 | I 2 nd meeting of the Group on Security Testing (STG/2), videoconference |
| 22 | I 6 th meeting of civil aviation regional organisations, Montreal |
| 23 Sep-3 Oct | I 42 nd Session of the ICAO Assembly, Montreal/videoconference |
| 23 Sep-3 Oct | I Bilateral meetings between ECAC President and Executive Secretary and international partners, Montreal |
| 29-30 | I 60 th meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/60), videoconference |

