



FACILITATION

Facilitation and accessibility discussions in Chişinău

Chişinău, 14–16 April 2026 — Enhancing accessibility for passengers with reduced mobility (PRMs) was the focus of a series of meetings gathering experts from across the European aviation community in Chişinău.



Operational challenges in delivering PRM assistance were on the agenda of the 7th meeting of the Facilitation PRM Sub-group with Experts, held on 15 April, bringing together national authorities with airports, airlines, ground handlers, training organisations and consultants, and disability organisations. Discussions explored practical actions to improve service quality and considered proposals for amendments to ECAC Doc 30, Part I (Facilitation). The importance of advance notification of assistance requests emerged as a key enabler for efficient planning of airport resources and high-quality service delivery.

The following day, the FAL-PRM Sub-

group convened with participants from ECAC Member States, with the European Commission attending as an observer. The group reviewed progress under its 2026 work programme and heard a presentation from the United Kingdom on its national airline accessibility assessment. Broader discussions also addressed recent developments at national, European and international levels, including priorities for the ICAO Facilitation Panel.

ECAC extends its sincere thanks to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Republic of Moldova for its warm welcome and excellent organisation in hosting these meetings. ●

Quality Assessment Programme training and certification

Paris, 27-30 April 2026 — ECAC organised its fourth Quality Assessment Programme (QAP) training and certification course in Paris in April, hosted by the French Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGAC).

The four-day programme brought together participants from Albania, France, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom, representing their respective national civil aviation authorities, and from the ECAC Secretariat. Over the first three days, the course covered the full cycle of QAP assessment methodology, from ECAC Doc 30, Part I (Facilitation) Section 5 and the principles of assessment, through to the preparation and performance of assessments, reporting, and compliance evaluation.

The final day was dedicated to certification examinations, consisting of three written tests assessing participants' knowledge of Doc 30, the QAP methodology, and their ability to analyse real-world compliance scenario.

The training was led by the ECAC Secretariat

and a certified QAP assessor from ENAC Italy, who brought valuable operational expertise to the sessions.

ECAC thanks DGAC France for hosting the training, and ENAC Italy for releasing the co-instructor.

This edition once again demonstrated

ECAC's commitment to building a strong and consistent pool of qualified assessors across its Member States, supporting the effective implementation of facilitation measures and the protection of the rights of passengers with reduced mobility throughout the ECAC region. ●



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Facilitation priorities in focus as European experts meet ahead of the ICAO Facilitation Panel

Rome/videoconference, 8-9 April 2026

— Ahead of the 14th ICAO Facilitation Panel (FALP/14), discussions on digital travel credentials, irregular migration, and accessibility were the focus as experts from ECAC Member States and the European Commission met in Rome.

Before the meeting, Fernando Santos (Portugal) had been appointed by Directors General as the new ECAC co-chair of ECG-FAL, succeeding Denia Priami (Italy), to whom the group expressed its warm appreciation for her leadership.

Mr Santos brings over 25 years of aviation expertise to the role, including his current position as Director of Facilitation and Security at the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) as well as extensive experience in global operations, regulatory frameworks and international representation. ●

Facilitation experts contribute to ICAO FAL Panel discussions in Montréal



Montréal, 20-24 April 2026

— Facilitation experts from several ECAC Member States and organisations took part in the 14th meeting of the ICAO Facilitation Panel (FALP/14), held in Montréal. The meeting provided an important opportunity to advance key priorities in the field of facilitation and to contribute to the ongoing development of international standards and recommended practices.

European experts actively engaged in discussions, putting forward a range of priorities aimed at improving the efficiency, security and inclusiveness of global air transport facilitation.

These included calls for a focused and non-duplicative implementation strategy, as well as the modernisation of Crew Member Certificates to support more seamless

visa-free facilitation for aircrew. They also highlighted the need for new provisions related to irregular migration by air and measures to combat wildlife trafficking.

In addition, European experts emphasised the importance of enhancing accessibility standards in international civil aviation, underlining the need for more inclusive air transport systems.

Throughout the meeting, experts reiterated their commitment to the continued development of meaningful ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices, with the objective of supporting seamless travel for all passengers. This includes strengthened provisions for persons with disabilities, as well as improved support for the victims and the families of victims of air accidents. ●



Cyber security audit guidance endorsed by experts

Toulouse, 22-23 April 2026 — The ECAC Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation met in Toulouse to review progress on developing new guidance in this area.

Responding to needs expressed by Member States at the 2025 Security Forum meeting, the group developed and endorsed a new document entitled *Best Practices for Conducting Cyber Security Audits and Inspections in the Aviation Security Domain*.

This document supports Appropriate Authorities from ECAC Member States in assessing the compliance of cyber security measures implemented by airport operators, air carriers and other relevant entities, in line with ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security) and the National Civil Aviation Security Programmes. It also includes an illustrative



set of questions to assist national auditors when conducting aviation cyber security audits and inspections.

The group also discussed the draft guidance on criticality in aviation cyber security and agreed to develop the document further, particularly the section addressing the criticality of ICT systems and data from an aviation security perspective.

Looking ahead, the group prepared a survey to identify Member States' needs for additional guidance or best practice material for development by the group in 2026 and 2027. The survey will be launched in early May 2026. ●



Advancing guidance and cooperation on dangerous goods

Berlin, 20-21 April 2026 — Progress on new guidance material took centre stage as the Guidance Material Task Force met in Berlin to advance the implementation of its 2026 work programme.

Participants completed the text of five guidance documents and agreed the process for concluding a further two in the coming weeks.

As part of the group's cooperation with the chair of the ICAO Dangerous Goods Panel, the meeting featured a presentation by the chair highli-

ghting the Panel's ongoing work on Annex 18 guidance that will have implications for security screening.

The meeting also discussed proposals to improve the task force's own working methods. ●

Emissions reduction task group resumes work

Videoconference, 8 April 2026 — The 21st meeting of the Action Plans for Emissions Reduction Task Group (APERTG/21) marked the reactivation of the group following a decision by the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) to continue its work between ICAO State Action Plans reporting cycles.

The meeting focused on preparations for the next edition of the ECAC/EU common section of State Action Plans, expected in 2027, and on how to incorporate the ICAO methodology into future reporting.

Participants reviewed current European approaches to emissions accounting and discussed the respective benefits of ICAO and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies. While ICAO methodology supports harmonised global reporting, IPCC methodology was seen as valuable for capturing regional policy impacts and supporting forward-looking assessments.

The meeting also explored links between State Action Plans and ICAO's long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) monitoring framework. ●

Updates to European guidance on aviation noise modelling

Videoconference, 9 April 2026 — The 92nd meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – Expanded (EAEG/92) reviewed proposals from the Aircraft Noise Modelling Task Group (AIRMOD) to update European guidance on aviation noise modelling.

Discussions focused on the proposed 5th edition of ECAC Doc 29 – the standard methodology for computing aircraft noise contours around civil airports, and a new methodology for rotorcraft noise calculation.

Members noted that the revised ECAC Doc 29 introduces targeted updates to improve harmonisation and consistency while maintaining alignment with developments within the ICAO framework. The proposed rotorcraft guidance, based on the NORAH (NOise of Rotorcraft Assessed by a Hemisphere-approach) methodology, was highlighted as an important step towards improving modelling of helicopter and emerging aviation operations.

Following the meeting, both documents were endorsed by the EAEG Expanded through written consultation, and will be recommended to ECAC Directors General of Civil Aviation for adoption. ●

Progress and priorities in focus at EAEG-CAEP working group meeting

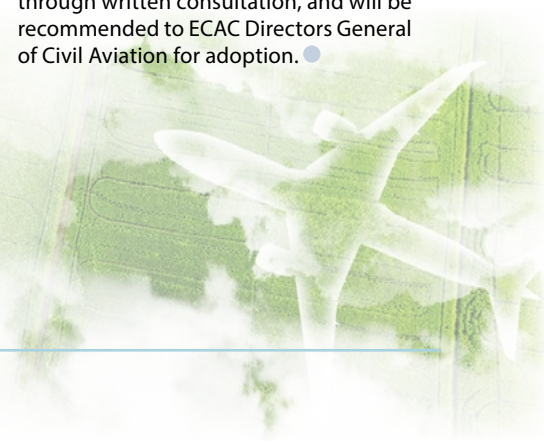
Videoconference, 9 April 2026 — Progress across the ICAO CAEP/14 work programme, and key environmental priorities were the focus of the recent meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – CAEP (EAEG-CAEP/91).

The meeting included a familiarisation session on noise-related activities to improve shared technical understanding among European experts, covering work on helicopter and light propeller-driven aircraft noise standards, as well as certification approaches for emerging technology aircraft.

Participants heard updates from across a

range of ICAO technical working groups, providing an overview of ongoing workstreams and recent developments since the first CAEP/14 Steering Group meeting in December 2025, and helping participants maintain awareness of progress across different technical domains.

The meeting highlighted the value of regular information sharing and identified upcoming milestones within the CAEP/14 cycle. Further exchanges and technical familiarisation sessions are expected to support continued engagement as work advances through 2026. ●





Aircraft noise modelling experts progress work on modelling methodologies



Cologne and videoconference, 21–22 April 2026 — Following recent endorsement of the 5th edition of ECAC Doc 29 and proposed new rotorcraft guidance by the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – Expanded, the Aircraft Noise Modelling Task Group (AIRMOD/44) met to review progress across the group’s technical roadmap supporting European aviation noise modelling methodologies.

Participants discussed ongoing maintenance of ECAC Doc 29, including revisions to supporting workbooks and the establishment of a dedicated workstream for future updates. The meeting also reviewed research on noise model validation, aircraft performance modelling, atmospheric effects, and developments related to the Aircraft Noise and Performance (ANP) database. ●



European preparations for ICAO’s Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference

Helsinki, 16 April 2026 — The European Coordination Group on Economic matters met in Helsinki to continue preparations for ICAO’s Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7), taking place in Montreal from 16 to 20 November 2026.

The meeting marked progress, with participants agreeing on a number of topics to propose as European

working papers for the conference and exploring ways to highlight European achievements and demonstrate support and cooperation with ECAC’s international partners on economic issues.

A further meeting is planned for the end of May 2026 to advance preparations in the months ahead. ●



Economic priorities and financial resilience

Helsinki, 17 April 2026 — Regional connectivity, ground handling and air passenger taxation were among the topics discussed at the 21st meeting of the Economic Working Group, hosted by the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications in April.

A session on financial stability provided valuable insights into monitoring approaches and managing sector bankruptcies, with experts sharing first-hand experience to enhance knowledge and strengthen capacity across Member States.

Looking ahead to their next meeting, participants agreed to explore the topic of regional connectivity in greater depth, recognising its importance as a central component of aviation sector resilience in a challenging global context. ●

What's on in May?

- 5 May | 71st meeting of the Facilitation Working Group (FAL/71), videoconference
- 5-6 May | Workshop on Managing New and Emerging Threats in Aviation Security, Tbilisi
- 6-7 May | 47th meeting of the Security Forum (SF/47), Tbilisi
- 7 May | 57th meeting of the Legal Task Force (LEGTF/57), videoconference
- 11 May | 9th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Cyber Security (ECG-CS/9), videoconference
- 19 May | 166th meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/166), Marseille
- 19 May | 64th meeting of the Aircraft Accident and Incident Group of Experts (ACC/64), Dubrovnik
- 20 May | 30th meeting between the Coordinating Committee and the United States' authorities (CC/US/30), Marseille
- 21-22 May | 62nd meeting of the Training Task Force (TrTF/62), Copenhagen/videoconference
- 26 May | 4th information sharing session of the Economic Working Group (ECO-INFO/4), videoconference
- 27-28 May | 44th meeting of the Behaviour Detection Study Group (BDSG/44), Zurich/videoconference



Upcoming events



Visit the Dialogue website for more information: <https://ecac-ceac.org/events-and-meetings/upcoming-events/2026-ecac-eu-dialogue>