



## DIRECTORS GENERAL

### Directors General discuss current aviation priorities and elect new ECAC Coordinating Committee members and vice-presidents

**Marseille, 19 May 2026** — The 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/166) of ECAC Member States took place in Marseille, hosted by the French Direction générale de l'Aviation civile (DGAC).

Discussions focused on operational resilience, safety, sustainability, workforce challenges and geopolitical developments affecting the sector. Directors General received updates from Ukraine on the civil aviation situation in the country and ongoing recovery preparations. Representatives of the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) exceptionally

joined the meeting. Chris Rocheleau from the FAA provided updates on recent priorities related to safety, people and air traffic management modernisation.

EUROCONTROL, EASA and the ICAO EUR/NAT Office directors gave updates on their respective priorities and activities. Particular attention was given to operational preparedness for the 2026 summer season.

The meeting further provided an opportunity to exchange views on recent European aviation developments and on the latest discussions within the ICAO Council, including preparations for the ICAO Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference

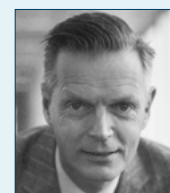
(ATConf/7) and the possible Extraordinary Session of the ICAO Assembly.

During the closed session, Directors General elected Maksim Et'hemaj (DGCA Albania) and Francine Zimmermann (DGCA Switzerland) as new members of the ECAC Coordinating Committee, and David Benito Astudillo (DGCA Spain) and Henri van Faassen (DGCA Netherlands) as Vice-Presidents of ECAC. Directors General also welcomed the continued progress towards the entry into force of the Convention on the Bureau of ECAC, noting that 23 Member States had now signed the Convention. ●



#### New Vice-Presidents

**David Benito** (pictured on the left), Director General of Civil Aviation, Spain, and **Henri van Faassen** (pictured on the right), Director General of Civil Aviation, Netherlands, were elected as Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee during the 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation in Marseille (19 May 2026).



#### New Coordinating Committee members

A warm welcome to **Maksim Et'hemaj** (pictured on the left), Director General of Civil Aviation, Albania, and **Francine Zimmermann** (pictured on the right), Director General of Civil Aviation, Switzerland, who were elected as members of the Coordinating Committee during the 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation in Marseille (19 May 2026).



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## ECAC and the United States reinforce civil aviation partnership at the 30<sup>th</sup> United States-Coordinating Committee meeting

**Marseille, 20 May 2026** — The 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECAC Coordinating Committee and the United States authorities (CC/US/30) took place on 20 May, hosted by ECAC in Marseille. The meeting brought together Directors General of Civil Aviation from several ECAC Member States, members of the Coordinating Committee, and senior US government officials representing the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the Department of State and the Department of Transportation.

The meeting reaffirmed the steady and constructive partnership between ECAC

and the United States in civil aviation. Discussions covered a wide range of shared priorities, including aviation safety, modernisation and digitalisation, aviation security, facilitation – notably State assistance to victims and accessibility –, sustainability, and ICAO matters, including preparation for the Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference.

The meeting was marked by the signature of an extension to the Memorandum of Understanding between ECAC and the TSA and the Department of Homeland Security - Science and Technology Directorate, concerning TSA participation

in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment. This important step reaffirmed the strong cooperation between ECAC and the United States in the field of aviation security and the CEP's role as a globally recognised framework for the testing of security equipment.

The meeting provided a valuable platform to exchange perspectives, deepen mutual understanding, and identify areas for continued collaboration in support of a safe, secure and sustainable global aviation system. ●



## Two Member States sign the ECAC Convention

**Marseille, 19 May 2026** — Two more Member States have signed the Convention on the Bureau of the European Civil Aviation Conference, bringing the number of signatory States to 23.

**Estonia** and **Finland** signed the Convention on the margins of the 166<sup>th</sup> meeting of ECAC Directors General in Marseille on 19 May 2026. Several other States have also indicated that they are finalising their internal pro-

cedures and are expected to sign the Convention later in 2026.

These latest signatures provide further momentum for the ratification process and strengthen the prospects for the Convention's entry into force. ●



Taivo Linnamägi, Estonia



Maija Ahokas, Finland



## Facilitation Working Group addresses wide-ranging priorities from global policy to operational challenges

**Videoconference, 5 May 2026** — Facilitation experts from more than 20 ECAC Member States met online for the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Facilitation Working Group, to discuss a wide-ranging agenda of European and international facilitation priorities. Representatives from the European Commission, IATA, AIRE and ECA also participated, reflecting the broad cross-sectoral engagement that characterises ECAC's work in this domain.

A key focus of the meeting was the outcome of the 14<sup>th</sup> ICAO Facilitation Panel (FALP/14), held

in Montreal in April 2026. Members agreed on concrete steps to strengthen ECAC's voice at ICAO level, including active participation in newly established task forces on irregular migration and the global aviation facilitation implementation strategy.

Participants also discussed PRM matters, the work of the State Assistance to Air Accident Victims Task Group, and the ongoing review of ECAC Doc 30, Part I (Facilitation). The group noted good overall progress against the 2025–2027 work programme in the field of facilitation.

Looking ahead, members highlighted two emerging operational challenges requiring close attention and coordinated European action: the implementation of the Entry/Exit System at European airports ahead of the summer peak, and the rise in unruly passenger incidents. ●

## Security experts meet in Tbilisi



### Workshop on Managing New and Emerging Threats in Aviation Security

**Tbilisi, 5-6 May 2026** — A workshop on managing new and emerging threats in aviation security was organised by the ECAC Secretariat in cooperation with various ECAC security groups and hosted by the Georgian Civil Aviation Agency.

The workshop brought together 44 participants from 24 Member States, as well as the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and aimed to promote a better understanding among Member States of the evolving aviation security threat landscape, including threats such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), improvised incendiary devices (IIDs), and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) /drones, and their associated risks.

The workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss common challenges related to threat and risk mitigation, review lessons learnt and best practices, exchange experiences on

mitigation strategies and approaches, and consider relevant ECAC guidance and documents recently developed or currently under development by ECAC security groups. ●

### 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Forum

**Tbilisi, 6 - 7 May 2026** — Following the Workshop on Managing New and Emerging Threats in Aviation Security, the 47<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECAC Security Forum (SF/47) brought together security experts to discuss policy and rule-making in aviation security. Discussions focused on recent amendments to ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security), data-driven decision-making in aviation security, and policy-making in the technical domain.

Participants also discussed a range of policy-related issues and exchanged information on topics of common interest to Member States, including national approaches to ensuring that foreign air carriers develop supplementary station procedures in accordance with Doc 30.

These discussions resulted in several follow-up actions. The policy discussions were complemented by updates from the chairs and moderators of ECAC security groups and from the ECAC Secretariat on newly developed and updated ECAC guidance material and best practices.

The agenda was prepared using a new approach proposed by the chair, reorganising the discussions and security group updates under a series of thematic sessions. Feedback on this approach, together with suggestions for further improvement, will be considered at the next meeting of the Security Forum.

More than 40 security experts from 25 Member States, one observer State, and organisations attended the meeting, which acknowledged the excellent participation and strong representation from Member States. ●



## Behaviour Detection Study Group advances guidance on tabletop exercises

**Zurich/videoconference, 27-28 May 2026** — The Behaviour Detection Study Group focused on tabletop exercises during its recent meeting, conducting its own exercise to develop understanding of the benefits, potential challenges and best practices associated with organising and conducting these activities. This activity will inform the development of a best practice document on the use of tabletop exercises in behaviour detection training.

The study group also made progress towards other key priorities for 2026, developing content for two further guidance documents. In addition, members decided on a way forward to resume a mentoring activity that had been paused following a reorganisation of responsibilities within the State concerned. ●



## Training Task Force advances 2026 work programme with six guidance papers nearing completion

**Copenhagen/videoconference, 21-22 May 2026** — The Training Task Force made significant steps towards the delivery of its 2026 work programme during its meeting, substantially completing six guidance papers that are expected to be finalised by the group in June. Work will continue over the summer on a further paper on theoretical tests for screener certification, with completion planned later in the year.

The task force also considered training aspects of improvised explosive device (IED) detection in hold baggage. They considered two presentations on IED detection during hold baggage screening using x-ray and explosive detection systems (EDS) equipment. ●

## European preparation for the fifth meeting of the ICAO Cybersecurity Panel

**Videoconference, 11 and 18 May 2026** — The European Coordination Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (ECG-CS) held two online meetings to facilitate the exchange of views between European experts who will participate in the fifth meeting of the ICAO Cybersecurity Panel (CYSECP/5).

The discussions addressed various priority matters for the forthcoming

Panel, including the draft ICAO Aviation Cybersecurity Manual (ACM), the cyber security-related Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) gap analysis, and proposals for the way forward, as well as other proposals brought to the attention of the Panel. ●



## ECAC economic experts increase their understanding of taxation in aviation through information exchange

**Videoconference, 26 May 2026** — Members of the Economic Working Group held an online information session aimed at increasing understanding of the range of taxes and charges applied across ECAC Member States. Consideration was given to issues of transparency and the different approaches taken by States and industry stakeholders. Participants recognised that while general taxation topics fall outside the aviation sector's scope, understanding the impacts of aviation taxes and charges is important

for supporting competitiveness and growth.

The session featured presentations by guest experts from IATA and ACI EUROPE, who shared information on industry data on aviation taxes and charges and highlighted the challenges involved in effective and accurate data capture. The group agreed to consider the session's key points at its next meeting in the autumn, with a view to identifying potential future areas of work. ●

## Drafting begins on proposed European working papers for ICAO ATConf/7

**Videoconference, 28 May 2026** — Following earlier discussions and agreement by Directors General, the European Coordination Group on Economic matters met to continue preparation for ICAO's Seventh Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/7). The meeting focused on setting up drafting groups to develop proposed European working papers for submission to ICAO in September 2026. ●

## ECAC accident investigation experts focus on human factors and emerging safety trends at Dubrovnik meeting

**Dubrovnik, 19 May 2026** — The 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECAC Group of Experts on Air Accident and Incident Investigation (ACC) was held in Dubrovnik, bringing together more than 60 representatives from European safety investigation authorities, as well as industry and international partners, to exchange experience and discuss recent developments in accident investigation and aviation safety. The meeting was hosted by the Croatian Safety Investigation Authority.

Participants reviewed accident and serious incident trends reported by ACC Member States for 2025, alongside updates from IATA, EUROCONTROL and industry on emerging safety challenges

and operational trends. They also shared information on recent and ongoing investigations, including helicopter accidents in France and Norway, with discussions highlighting the interaction between technical failures, operational pressures and organisational factors in accident causation.

A particular focus of this year's meeting was human factors in demanding operational contexts, examined from the perspective of pilots, investigators, industry stakeholders and training specialists. Discussions covered issues including workload, fatigue, decision-making and training, reinforcing the understanding that human performance is shaped not only by actions in the

cockpit, but also by organisational culture, procedures, training environments and wider operational conditions. Presentations and discussions underlined the importance of cooperation between investigators, operators and manufacturers in strengthening aviation safety and supporting a systems-based approach to accident prevention.

The meeting also included updates on ECAC activities, and developments from EASA, ICAO, ESASI/ISASI and other international fora. ●



## ECAC Legal Task Force reviews key legal developments and prepares for 2026 meetings

**Videoconference, 7 May 2026** — The 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECAC Legal Task Force (LEGTf) focused on ongoing ICAO legal developments, and preparations for upcoming legal work ahead of the 40<sup>th</sup> ICAO Legal Committee (LC/40), scheduled for October 2026. Participants also reviewed a new task from the Coordinating Committee on possible amendments to ECAC voting modalities.

The meeting provided updates on ongoing ICAO legal work, including preparations for the fourth ICAO Civil Aviation Legal Advisers Forum (CALAF/4)

in Nassau in May 2026, and the 40<sup>th</sup> ICAO Legal Committee in Montreal in October 2026. Members also exchanged information on developments relating to pilotless aircraft, data protection laws, Articles 12 and 15 of the Chicago Convention, and the review of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (MEX Convention).

In addition, the Task Force was informed of recent ECAC developments, including the adoption of revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the

group, under which the Legal Task Force will be renamed the ECAC Legal Working Group from its next meeting. Updates were also provided on signatures to the Convention on the Bureau of ECAC and on recent amendments to the procedure for electing members of the Coordinating Committee. ●

# New and updated ECAC documents



Now available for download:

**1<sup>st</sup> Edition of ECAC Doc 32 - Report on Standard Method of Computing Rotorcraft Noise Contours**

**5<sup>th</sup> Edition of ECAC Doc 29 - Report on Standard Method of Computing Noise Contours around Civil Airports**

# Upcoming events



**Registration is open!**

## How can European aviation remain resilient in an increasingly complex environment?

Join aviation leaders and policymakers in Paris on 13–14 October 2026 to discuss the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of air transport.

Register now: <https://ecac-ceac.org/events-and-meetings/upcoming-events/2026-ecac-eu-dialogue/registration-2026-ecac-eu-dialogue>

# What's on in June?

calendar

3-4 June		4 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Group on Security Testing (STG/4), videoconference
9-10 June		94 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Task Force (TTF/94), Dublin
10 June		93 <sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/93-CAEP) and session with stakeholders (EAEG/93-STK), videoconference
15-16 June		68 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Common Evaluation Process Management Group (CEP-MG/68), Rome
16 June		10 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of Communication Specialists (NETCOM/10), videoconference
17 June		1 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Working Group (UAS/1), London
17 June		Information session with CEP manufacturers (CEP-MANUF-INFO), Rome/videoconference
18-19 June		48 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD/48) videoconference
23 June		13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation (NETD&I/13), Vienna/videoconference
23 June		79 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO/79), Stockholm
26 June		47 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Programme Management Group (SPMG/47), videoconference



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