

A NEW CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING POLICY FOR EUROPE

ISTANBUL DECLARATION

Istanbul, 25 June 2010

More than 40 countries were represented at a special Conference in Istanbul hosted jointly by the President of ECAC, Mr Luis Fonseca de Almeida and Dr Ali Ariduru, Director General of Civil Aviation in Turkey and ECAC's Focal Point for Training. The participants were welcomed to Istanbul by the Honourable Minister Binali Yildirim, Minister for Transport.

The Conference emphasized that ECAC has a crucial role to play in ensuring that training is given the status and priority it requires in the continued drive for a safer, more secure and greener air transport in Europe. The pool of qualified, competent professionals that European air transport requires today and will require in future years can best be ensured by a greater emphasis on competency-based training. As air transport emerges from the financial crisis, there are strong indicators of a future shortfall in the number of professionals coming on stream to fill vacancies in key jobs. Therefore, the development and delivery of training programmes in ECAC Member States must be intensified.

The ECAC region has a wealth of training organisations, schools and other entities to draw on, both national and multinational. ECAC can already draw on the expertise in training of two European organisations: EASTI in aviation security and JAA-TO in safety and environment. ECAC has the ability through its Memorandum of Understanding and close work relations to learn from the experience of the Aviation Academy of Singapore and the FAA Academy in the United States. Partnerships with IATA and ACI will also enable ECAC to benefit from industry's experience in this field.

Under the guidance of its Focal Point, Dr Ali Ariduru:

1 – Firstly, ECAC will develop and put in place – as a matter of urgency – a process by which it will be able to endorse institutions that offer training of the highest calibre and which wish to use the ECAC logo in doing so. This process will define the standards, quality control measures and review procedures to enable an endorsement to be granted. ECAC’s role will be to ensure an effective oversight so that the standards of training offered in ECAC’s name are of the highest quality.

2 – Secondly, ECAC will conduct a detailed needs analysis. The Focal Point will undertake together with the ECAC Secretariat a survey of ECAC Member States’ training needs and demands together with a picture of what training is currently offered, by which institutions, and whether what is offered matches demand.

3 – Thirdly, these elements will just be two features of an overall ECAC training policy that will be recommended to all Directors General before the end of this year; and

4 – Finally, ECAC will consider establishing a network of training institutions to ensure maximum efficiency and consolidation of resources.

ECAC has contributed through its work for more than 50 years to the mission of ICAO at a global level. This relationship with ICAO is of the highest importance to ECAC. The training policy to be developed now in ECAC will be designed to ensure compatibility with similar work in ICAO. Overall, both ICAO and ECAC share the objective of ensuring that civil aviation will be able to rely on the best international standards of training available.

Closing the Conference, Dr Ariduru, reminded colleagues of ECAC’s traditions of working closely to share expertise with other aviation regions and States outside Europe. In his responsibilities as Focal Point for Training, he promised to continue this important tradition. He pointed to the huge potential for bringing States and regions closer in the field of training and to the benefits this would bring to the air transport industry.