



# ECAC NEWSPOINT #11

European Civil Aviation Conference monthly news

## JOINT ECAC-EUROCONTROL EVENT

### Joint ECAC-EUROCONTROL event: Artificial intelligence in aviation



**Brussels/videoconference, 24 November** — ECAC and EUROCONTROL organised a joint event on the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) for the aviation sector. The event was hosted at EUROCONTROL's headquarters in Brussels and was attended by 34 ECAC Member States, represented by Directors General of Civil Aviation and their senior experts. The President of the ICAO Council and other European and international organisations, stakeholders and manufacturers in the aviation industry were invited as speakers.

The main objective of the event was to give a boost to both understanding of artificial intelligence and momentum behind its rapid development, for the wider benefit of aviation.

Opening the event, EUROCONTROL Director General, Eamonn Brennan (*pictured below*), and ECAC President, Alessio Quaranta (DGCA Italy) (*pictured below right*),



underlined that both ECAC and EUROCONTROL chose to dedicate this event to artificial intelligence because more and more data are digital, and information technology evolves fast and continuously in all domains of our societies. This has growing impacts on the aviation sector.

Speakers from EUROCONTROL, European Commission's DG CONNECT, EASA, SESAR Joint Undertaking, IATA, United Kingdom's NATS, Airbus and IFATCA, as well as the Director General of Civil Aviation in Germany, and a representative of the Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice, gave presentations on the development of artificial intelligence-based approaches in different domains of aviation. It was agreed that AI has great potential to transform many, and perhaps all, aviation disciplines.

Artificial intelligence is not the answer to all the challenges faced by the aviation industry, but it can be part of the solution



as a key enabler. The use of artificial intelligence in aviation can help in taking better, more informed, decisions; for example, to analyse higher volumes of data – amounts of data that humans cannot possibly process alone based on their own experience and knowledge.

"AI has the potential to transform our industry. And we need to ensure that while we have a pro-innovation regulatory framework, we also protect our values: safety, security, and environmental sustainability", concluded Patricia Reverdy, ECAC Executive Secretary (*pictured below*).



The main outcomes of the event highlighted that the use of AI in the aviation industry brings a series of opportunities and challenges – such as ensuring the trustworthiness of AI applications – that need to be discussed further and addressed by ECAC Member States, in particular from a more strategic and policy perspective. ■

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## Coordinating Committee prepares business ahead of December DGCA meeting

**4 November** – The ECAC Coordinating Committee reviewed the business of ECAC based on recommendations from the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO), and discussed other essential business ahead of the December DGCA meeting (DGCA/157). Topics included preparations for the 41<sup>st</sup> ICAO Assembly, including European priorities and the question of election of the European members to the ICAO Council. The report of implementation of the work programme and the ECAC risk register

were respectively acknowledged and endorsed ahead of the DGCA meeting, and the Committee dealt with other business relating to financial priorities, the work of coordination groups and other matters. Mirjana Čizmarov (DGCA Serbia) was appointed to the JAA TO Foundation Board, and Bertrand de Lacombe (France) was appointed as the new EMTO chair as of February 2022, with thanks recorded to the outgoing chair, Urs Haldimann (Switzerland). ■

## ENVIRONMENT

### Fifth monthly ECAC familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment

**3 November** — Climate change risks and adaptation needs for European aviation was the topic under discussion at the fifth monthly ECAC familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment.

Rachel Burbidge, Environmental Policy Officer at EUROCONTROL, presented a recently published EUROCONTROL study on climate change risks for European aviation, which highlights the significant and increasing risks to aviation in the coming years due to global warming.

Representatives from different European airports shared information on actions already being taken to adapt to what is already happening. Their key message was that smaller adaptation investments today will save much bigger costs in the future. Speakers were Evdokia Anamaterou, specialist on air quality, climate change and community engagement from Athens International Airport in Greece, Denise Pronk, programme manager on corporate responsibility at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands, and Olav Mosvold Larsen, senior executive advisor from the AVINOR group in Norway.

58 participants from 28 States and organisations participated in this webinar. The next in the series, scheduled to be held on 8 December, aims to familiarise participants with sustainable aviation fuels: how can they be produced, and their potential for Europe.

– and one information paper. This was the result of five EAEG meetings: EAEG/42 on 21 October and continued on 4 November, EAEG/44 on 17 November and continued on 22 November, and EAEG/45 on 26 November. Two EAEG meetings with stakeholders from the European industry and environmental NGOs involved in the ICAO CAEP work programme also took place during this phase to exchange views on recent and future CAEP developments, notably on noise and emissions technical standards, supersonic air transport, long-term aviation goal, CORSIA, aviation fuels, modelling and database, forecast and economic assessment, airport and operations, as well as on the CAEP group on impact and science.

The next phase of exchanging views has already started, and the EAEG meeting on 9 December will be a key milestone.

**17 November** — At its meeting on 17 November, EAEG (Expanded) developed in greater detail the environmental priorities for the 41<sup>st</sup> ICAO Assembly and subsequent proposals for working papers. These proposals will be considered by the Directors General at their December meeting (DGCA/157). ECAC Member States also heard information on recent developments in Europe, such as the EU *Fit for 55 package* and the EASA programme for sustainable aviation.



### European preparations for 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection

**October/November** — The European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG) finalised the first phase of its preparations for the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ICAO Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP). This led to the submission by the deadline of 29 November of five working papers from several European CAEP members – co-authored by international CAEP members

## First ECAC information seminar on CORSIA

**24 November** — CORSIA focal points from ECAC Member States gathered virtually for the first CORSIA Information Seminar organised by the ECAC Secretariat under its capacity-building programme for environment. The main objectives of this seminar were to facilitate CORSIA implementation in Europe and to promote partnerships to support ECAC Member States requiring technical assistance.

ICAO provided an update on the next steps for the ACT-CORSIA programme. The European Commission briefed participants on the current regulatory proposal under discussion for CORSIA implementation in the EU; EASA shared lessons learnt from its international cooperation projects addressing CORSIA support; and EUROCONTROL gave a briefing on the tools it has developed to support States in the scheme's implementation.

The ECAC Secretariat proposed different means to cooperate within Europe to ensure CORSIA implementation in the 44 ECAC Member States by the next ICAO Assembly. Member States were encouraged to consider building partnerships with that aim, and to develop bilateral and multilateral cooperation and information sharing.

52 participants joined the seminar. Further seminars are expected to be held in the first semester of 2022 to address identified capacity-building needs, such as sustainable aviation fuels use and reporting under CORSIA, and the development and use of emissions units. Should an ECAC Member State require any technical support for CORSIA implementation, please contact the ECAC Secretariat ([cvelarde@ecac-ceac.org](mailto:cvelarde@ecac-ceac.org)). ■



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## End of year meeting of the Security Programme Management Group

**Stockholm, 8 November** — The 34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Security Programme Management Group was chaired for the first time by the recently appointed Focal Point for Facilitation and Security with the lead on security, Gunnar Ljungberg (DGCA Sweden). The meeting reviewed the performance of the security task forces and study groups against their annual work programmes, and agreed on priorities for 2022. The interdependence between

the Technical Task Force and the CEP Management Group was underlined, and regular meetings between the chairs and deputy chairs of both groups will be organised in the coming months to strengthen this cooperation.

## Security equipment manufacturers meet with the ECAC CEP Management Group and testing methodologies developers

**16, 19, 22, 23 and 24 November** — The 12<sup>th</sup> information meeting for security equipment manufacturers involved in the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment brought together a total of 106 participants from 46 manufacturers (representing an increase of more than 50% compared to the previous meeting) with representatives of ECAC's CEP Management Group and Technical Task Force (TTF).

A general information session held on 16 November reviewed the evolution of

the seven CEP test programmes and the developments in 2021. These included the new restricted website for equipment manufacturers, the recruitment of a CEP assistant to support the CEP, and the new version of the CEP frequently asked questions.

This session was followed from 19 to 24 November by a series of six thematic videoconferences by type of equipment. The moderators of each specialist TTF study group exchanged with experts from the equipment manufacturers

on new performance standards and CEP Common Testing Methodologies. Topics covered the new standards for walk-through metal detectors and for automatic systems for detecting prohibited articles in cabin baggage, the tray equivalence protocol, and the new Common Testing Methodologies for eight types of equipment, including the CEP new candidate categories of explosive vapour detection and shoe metal and explosives detection equipment. ■

## ECAC resumes capacity-building activities on-site for national auditors

**Tirana, 8-12 November** — A Best Practices for National Auditors – Level 1 (BPNA-1) training course was conducted from 8 to 12 November in Tirana (Albania), hosted by the Albanian Civil Aviation Authority. Attendees on the course included national auditors from Albania, Estonia, Lithuania and Turkey.

This was the first live security training course delivered by ECAC since January 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19

pandemic and related travel restrictions, and it marks an important step for security capacity building in the return to the new normal.

The training comprised a review of most aspects of aviation security, with particular focus being paid to passenger/baggage reconciliation, hold baggage security, and passenger and cabin baggage screening. The course was very much predicated on identification and

implementation of best practices related to inspecting the aviation security measures. As such, it was augmented by numerous activities, including several classroom activities and discussions, and three exercises conducted at Tirana International Airport, intended to demonstrate learning points and share best practices in the live environment.



## Developing technical expertise in Member States

**2-5 November** — ECAC's support to Member States in developing their technical expertise continued in November, with the organisation of a Best Practices for Drafting Technical Specifications for Security Equipment training course conducted in Russian. This online training was delivered to seven security experts from Armenia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The course presented an overview of the key elements of the approval process of security equipment. It also looked at the European (ECAC/EU) requirements for security equipment, including the most recent changes introduced to Chapter 12 of ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security). Participants examined how to draft and interpret technical specifications and performance standards for all types of security equipment. They were able to gain a better insight into the capabilities and limitations of security equipment in detecting threats, as well as the role of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment in providing a common reference for national administrations to approve the security equipment deployed at airports under their responsibility.

## Briefing for ECAC-certified aviation security auditors

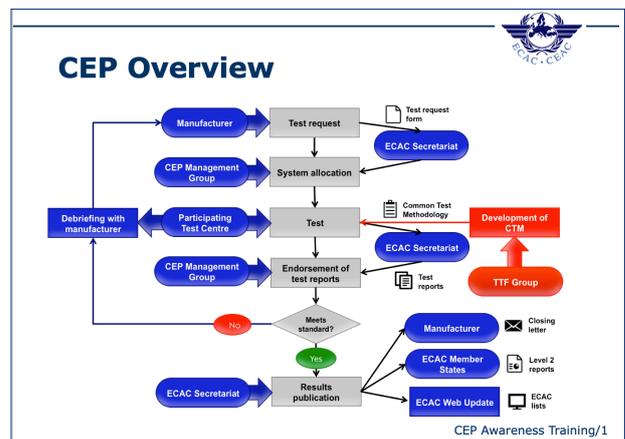
**16 November** — ECAC organised an online briefing on the recent changes to ECAC Doc 30, Part II (Security). Sixteen ECAC-certified aviation security auditors from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Germany, Ireland, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Turkey, as well as a representative of the European Commission's DG MOVE, who is an auditors' trainer, attended the briefing. The auditors were given an overview of Amendment 14 (May 2021) to ECAC Doc 30, Part II. This contributed to their developing a common understanding of new and amended Doc 30 Recommendations. Particular attention was paid to developing a common interpretation on standard and enhanced background checks, as well as on cyber security measures.

## CEP awareness training (pilot webinar)

**18-19 November** — To further support the development of technical expertise in ECAC Member States and provide States with a better understanding of the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment, the ECAC Secretariat has developed a new online training course entitled CEP Awareness Training.

A pilot webinar was conducted for security experts from the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine over two days in November. The webinar explored the legal basis for establishing the CEP, its objectives, key principles, benefits and deliverables, and the main actors involved in implementing the CEP. The types of security equipment and tests conducted within the framework of the CEP were also examined, and participants were introduced to the testing process and how test results are communicated, including the role of the CEP designees. Particular attention was paid to better understanding and using the CEP test reports of equipment found to meet a performance standard.

Due to the high number of States volunteering to participate in the pilot webinar, additional sessions will be organised in January 2022 and in the course of 2022. ■



## Review of economic activities in Member States

**Paris/videoconference, 10 November** — The latest developments on economic-related aviation activities in ECAC Member States and the ECAC Secretariat were shared at the Economic Working Group meeting. The meeting also heard updates from a representative of the European Regions Airline Association (ERA) on regional connectivity and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

The meeting reviewed the draft report from the joint Economic Working Group/Legal Task Force ad hoc study group set up to

examine the Paris Agreement of 1956. Participants agreed that work should continue on this topic to explore in more detail its interpretation, application and a potential way forward on this agreement.

They also welcomed the report from the ad hoc study group on liberalisation, which included an “air transport liberalisation tool-box” that could be used by ECAC Member States at their own discretion. It was agreed this was a useful living document and should be further developed and kept updated by the study group. ■

## NEWS FROM THE ECAC SECRETARIAT

### ECAC welcomes new staff members



**Aleksandar Yankov** joined the ECAC CASE II Project team on 1 November, and he is keen to participate in ECAC's activities in Partner States. His professional

development has spanned various stages, but invariably directly related to aviation security. A former commercial airline pilot, he also has over 25 years of hands-on experience in development and application of national regulations and international standards. From 1995 until joining the CASE II Project team, he held several positions including head of the security department at the Bulgarian CAA, manager of an aviation training, consulting and security services centre, as well as an independent trainer and a freelance consultant. Since 2013, Alexander has also been an ICAO international aviation security instructor.



**Triin Vendik** joined the ECAC Secretariat on 1 November as CEP Assistant. Prior to joining ECAC, Triin worked in a bank in Estonia as a senior records management

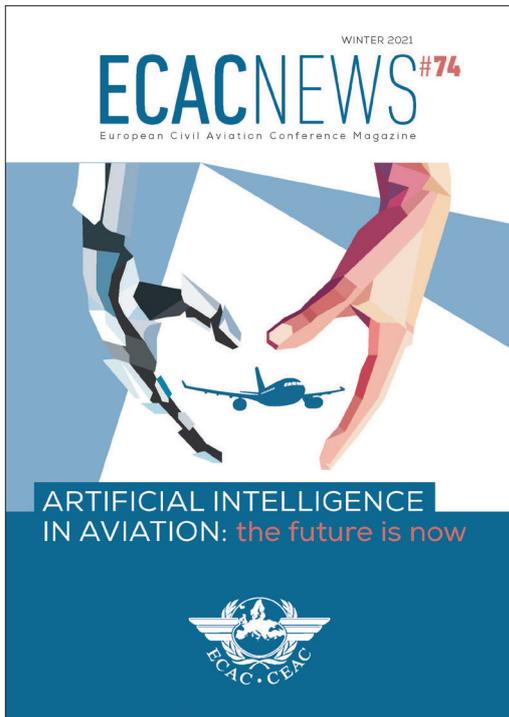
specialist where she was responsible for the bank's administrative documents. Triin looks forward to bringing her previous experience of organising documentation and information-related data and ensuring it is easily accessible to support the ECAC Common Evaluation Process (CEP) in the best way possible.



**Bohdan Koverdynsky** joined the ECAC Secretariat on 1 November as an aviation security expert. Bohdan has 17 years of aviation security experience, working

both for government agencies and operators. For the last five years he was responsible for the security operations of the Czech Republic's air navigation services, covering the areas of aviation, cyber, physical security, personal data protection and emergency management. He is happy to bring the experience he gained at the start of his career back to ECAC.





## ECAC News winter 2021 edition Artificial intelligence in aviation - the future is now

Available on the ECAC website:  
[www.ecac-ceac.org](http://www.ecac-ceac.org)

## What's on in December?



Our mission is the promotion of the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system

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- 3/ 40<sup>th</sup> European coordination meeting on COVID-19 (ECM/40) (videoconference)
- 3/ 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the EAEG Sustainable Aviation Fuels Task Force (SAFTG/1) (videoconference)
- 8/ 6<sup>th</sup> Familiarisation webinar on basic knowledge on aviation and the environment (ENV-FAMWEB/6) (videoconference)
- 9/ 46<sup>th</sup> meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group – Expanded (EAEG/46-Expanded) (videoconference)
- 13/ ECAC Conference on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Behaviour Detection (videoconference)
- 14/ 14<sup>th</sup> ECAC Forum of Directors General (FORUM/14), Paris/videoconference
- 15/ 157<sup>th</sup> meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/157), Paris/videoconference
- 15/ 40<sup>th</sup> ECAC Plenary Session (ECAC/40), Paris/videoconference