



COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Coordinating Committee endorses proposals for upcoming key meetings, and advances cooperation initiatives



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Paris, 27 March — The members of the ECAC Coordinating Committee gathered to cover an agenda focusing on preparations for the April meeting of Directors General, to be held in Paris on 25 April 2024 (DGCA/162). The members endorsed proposals for the 2025-2027 work programme and budget. They also agreed to the submission to DGCA/162 of proposals on the treatment of contributions in arrears and on the recording of meetings.

Additionally, they reviewed the progress made by the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force on the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) funding models, as well as the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ECAC working groups. They asked for more detailed proposals to be brought forward during the summer.

Furthermore, the meeting supported, in principle, the proposal for a further one-year no-cost extension of the CASE II Project. This proposal will be submitted to Directors General for decision in the coming weeks.

On external matters, the Coordinating Committee endorsed the proposed agenda for its forthcoming meeting in Paris with the United States' authorities (CC-US/28, 24 April 2024), and agreed next steps on cooperation proposals with India and Malaysia. ■

ECAC MEDIUM-TERM OBJECTIVES TASK FORCE

EMTO maps out future deliverables and reviews ECAC strategy

Videoconference, 28 March — The main focus of the 72nd meeting of the ECAC Medium-Term Objectives Task Force (EMTO) this month was to plan the delivery of additional work commissioned by the Coordinating Committee the previous day (CC/200 – see above) on the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) funding models and the terms of reference and rules of procedure of ECAC groups.

Participants welcomed the Coordinating Committee's decision to appoint Marina Köster (Germany) as the new deputy chair of the task force for a first mandate of three years. EMTO also initiated its review of the *ECAC Strategy for the Future* document and will consider a revised text at its next meeting, before submission to Directors General for consideration. ■

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ECAC at inaugural Aviation Day hosted at the World Economic Forum headquarters

Geneva, 14 March — The rapid evolution of technology and the increasing emphasis on sustainability are profoundly reshaping the aviation landscape. In order to facilitate collaboration within the aviation community and explore the implications of these developments from both technological and regulatory perspectives, the World Economic Forum Centre for Nature and Climate, in collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, convened the inaugural Aviation Day on 14 March 2024, at WEF's Geneva headquarters.

Aviation Day served as a platform for key stakeholders in the aviation industry to engage in discussions regarding the future trajectory of the aviation sector. Approximately 100 stakeholders from across the aviation ecosystem, including prominent policymakers and industry leaders, came together with the shared objective of catalysing action towards realising a safe, sustainable, and equitable future for the aviation ecosystem.

Inmaculada Gómez (Spain), co-rapporteur for the ECAC Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Task Group, actively participated in two workshops focused on SAF and cleaner energies.

Through interactive sessions, online questionnaires, and dynamic discussions, participants identified pivotal elements for overcoming region-specific barriers, mitigating investment risks, and facilitating scalability. Additionally, insights were shared on the challenges and opportunities associated with the distribution, production, and utilisation of hydrogen at airports.

The agenda included several keynote interventions and two panel discussions that delved into initiatives post the third ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3), examined the technological implications and impacts on the aviation ecosystem, and discussed relevant policies for scaling up and accelerating the implementation of novel propulsion technologies and new business models.

During the workshop on SAF, "Overcoming regional barriers and de-risking investments", participants emphasised the importance of establishing stable and ideally globally harmonised regulations as foundational to fostering investments and enabling financing and bankability. Additionally, discussions centred on

challenges faced by the aviation sector, such as the necessity for long-term off-take agreements, cost transparency, and the absence of pricing references. Furthermore, participants debated the prioritisation of decarbonisation measures, acknowledging that while airports and airlines recognise the importance of such measures, other mitigation options may be more economically viable, particularly in contexts where individual passenger willingness to pay is insufficient to drive significant demand.

Moreover, the World Economic Forum team launched a new report during the workshop, titled *Scaling Up Sustainable Aviation Fuel Supply: Overcoming Barriers in Europe, the US and the Middle East*. This report outlines key actions that stakeholders across the aviation value chain should undertake to achieve a target of 10% sustainable aviation fuel by 2030. It examines the limitations and current barriers constraining both cost and supply in this endeavour.

ECAC is very grateful to WEF for extending the invitation to this event and looks forward to future cooperation. ■



Joint workshop with ICAO EUR/NAT to exchange lessons learnt on developing National Facilitation Programmes

Athens, 12 March — The Joint ECAC-ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Office workshop on National Facilitation Programmes and Committees took place in Athens on 12 March 2024. The event, hosted by Greece, heard opening remarks from Christos Tsitouras - Director General of Civil Aviation, Greece (pictured right), David Benito (DGCA Spain) in his capacity as ECAC Focal Point for Facilitation, and Nicolas Rallo - Regional Director, ICAO EUR/NAT. Mr Benito emphasised the challenge and complexity that States often faced in developing national facilitation programmes and committees, in the context of having to work across large numbers of stakeholders and in the rapidly evolving and expanding field of facilitation.

Representatives from ECAC Member States shared the lessons learnt during the COVID period and how they had

applied these since to review and, where needed, restructure or rebuild their own national facilitation programmes. The importance of recognising factors outside of the aviation sector's control was discussed and participants also received broader perspectives from invited speakers from the International Air Transport Association, Greece's IHR Directorate of Preparedness and Response, Frontex and EUROCONTROL.

Conclusions of the event recognised common factors for successful National Facilitation Programmes, such as: effective and early information sharing; adaption of National Facilitation Committees to fit national needs and to provide benefits for the State as a whole; and ensuring there is clear understanding about

all stakeholders and their ICAO Annex 9 roles and responsibilities. It was agreed that as there remain plenty of challenges for States under this topic, consideration would also be given to a follow-up event to share further experiences and gauge progress over the next year or two.



ECAC facilitation experts discuss matters relating to persons with reduced mobility

Videoconference, 18 March — The Facilitation Sub-Group on Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRM) met for the first time in 2024. In-depth information was shared amongst the participants from 19 ECAC Member States on topics including mobility aids and PRM complaints. In accordance with the adopted 2024 work programme, participants suggested topics for this year's activities for the ad hoc group on assistance dogs, under the guidance of a new moderator from the Netherlands.

Members of the sub-group warmly thanked Marie Hauerová (Czechia) for chairing the group for the last three years, which had seen ECAC's PRM work expand considerably. They welcomed the news that Mark de Laurentiis (Italy) would be the new chair of the group, leading it with the support of the continuing deputy chair, Kirsi Tervola-Joutsen (Finland). ■

ECAC Economic Working Group propels market liberalisation agenda at Paris meeting

Paris, 26 March — The Economic Working Group, whose current work programme focuses on economics and market matters, such as approaches to liberalisation, met to discuss and advance on the topics outlined in its agenda.

Members discussed the next steps for the market liberalisation toolkit recently updated by the ad hoc study group dedicated to this topic. They agreed to modernise the layout and proposed transforming it into a user-friendly web tool making it more accessible to States, in addition to sharing the document with Directors General as previously agreed.

Additionally, the agenda encompassed consideration of forthcoming expected bilateral agreement discussions, air traffic flow data, and crises responses. An outcome of the discussion on crises responses was the proposal to establish an ad hoc group to delve deeper into the topic with the objective of enhancing ECAC experts' skillsets and understanding of the topic of crisis responses and recovery approaches. ■

Highlights from the CEP Management Group meeting: updates on funding, strategic planning, and testing enhancements

Videoconference 12 and 21 March — The 60th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) Management Group, chaired by Raquel China Delgado (AESA, Spain), welcomed for the first time the participation of representatives from Norway, Portugal and Switzerland as observers in the group.

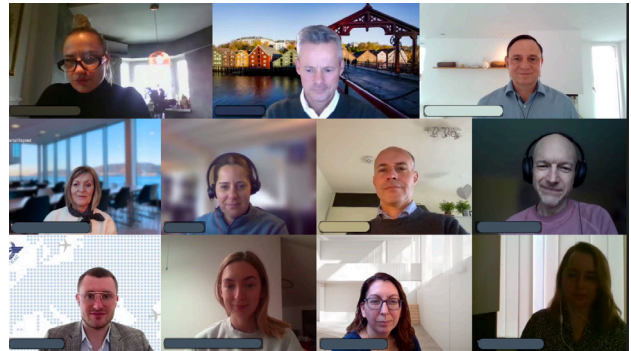
The ECAC Secretariat provided an update on the financial status of the CEP and the possible evolution of its current funding models. This included a discussion on the adjustment of ECAC administrative fees for equipment testing in line with 2023 inflation in France, which was agreed by the Coordinating Committee last year. Additionally, strategies to secure funding for the test centres' research and development were also examined.

Other topics explored during the meeting included developments on the amendment of the Explosive Detection Systems for Cabin Baggage C3 Concept of Operations Common Testing Methodology, a review of the 2022-2024 roadmap implementation, and an initial brainstorming of plans for 2025–2027. The implementation of modular testing and EDS/EDSCB tray equivalency testing to increase the capacity and efficiency of the CEP was also discussed. Participants agreed that the next (61st) management group meeting would be held online on 2 and 4 July, and the 62nd meeting would be held in person on 8-9 October.

Training Task Force plans new material and workshop to enhance aviation security

Videoconference, 14-15 March — The Training Task Force convened virtually to explore ideas for developing new material on various topics including training vulnerability assessors, human factors in the decision-making process in aviation security, training on unmanned aircraft systems and cyber security. Additionally, the task force aims to revise guidance material and best practice documents in 2024, covering areas such as screener certification, the National Civil Aviation Security Training Programme, training for personnel responsible for aircraft security, and training on the use of explosive trace detection equipment.

Of particular focus during the meeting was the planning of the workshop on human factors and motivation in aviation security, scheduled to be held in Paris on 13-14 November 2024.



Armenia hosts training course for national auditors

Yerevan, 4-8 March — National security auditors from Albania, Armenia, Estonia and the Republic of Moldova gathered in Yerevan for a five-day training course hosted by the Civil Aviation Committee of Armenia. The course provided a valuable opportunity for the experts to deepen their understanding of their role, powers, and responsibilities as national auditors and strengthen their experience and proficiency in conducting national compliance monitoring activities.

The training programme introduced the participants to inspection and audit methodology along with best practices for debriefing, compliance assessment, and report writing. Through a combination of theoretical instruction, interactive classroom activities and practical exercises conducted at an airport, the participants were familiarised with best practices in techniques for inspecting passenger and

cabin baggage screening, hold baggage screening and protection, and passenger and baggage reconciliation.

Moreover, the course facilitated a deeper comprehension of the main security technologies, equipping auditors with a better understanding of their capabilities

and limitations in detecting prohibited items.

The participation of a knowledgeable and experienced security expert from Romania as a co-instructor was a valuable contribution to the course.



Serbia hosts training course on inspecting security equipment

Belgrade, 26-28 March — The ECAC Secretariat organised a Best Practices for Inspecting Security Equipment training course in Belgrade for eight national auditors from Belgium, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia and Türkiye, to develop their knowledge of ECAC Doc 30, Part II (*Security*) recommendations in the field of security equipment. Areas covered included technical specifications and performance standards for various security technologies.

The primary objectives of the course were twofold: to present the key elements for the effective deployment of security equipment, as well as to describe the capabilities and limitations of different screening technologies.

Through theoretical training and practical activities conducted at the airport, participants gained practical insights into inspecting the deployment of security equipment across various domains of aviation security. The course also served as a reminder of the role of the Appropriate Authority and the ECAC Common

Evaluation Process of security equipment (CEP) in assessing security equipment.

The valuable contribution of an experienced security expert from Norway as a co-instructor further enriched the learning experience. ■



NETWORK ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

ECAC Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation prepares for its next survey



Videoconference, 18 March — The first meeting of the year for the Network on Diversity and Inclusion in Civil Aviation focused on preparing the next edition of the ECAC survey on diversity, equity and inclusion, scheduled for launch in April. Following the success of the 2022 edition, this year's survey will assess the diversity landscape across all ECAC Member States, and further elaborate on recent national initiatives undertaken by the States.

Chaired by Giovanna Laschena (Italy), the Network also exchanged views on various items outlined in its 2024 work programme. Members will continue these discussions on D&I initiatives and good practice in the coming months. ■

What's on in April?

- 2-5 ECAC Quality Assessment Programme Training and Certification (QAP Training/2), Paris
- 8 14th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Economic matters (ECG-ECO/14), videoconference
- 11 3rd workshop of the unmanned aircraft systems points of contact, videoconference
- 15 15th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security (ECG-AS/15), Paris
- 16 67th meeting of the Facilitation Working Group (FAL/67), Paris
- 16-17 13th meeting of the Aircraft Noise Modelling Task Group (EAEG-AIRMOD/13), Netherlands/hybrid
- 22 69th meeting of the European Aviation and Environment Working Group (EAEG/69), videoconference
- 23-24 49th meeting of the Study Group on Cyber Security in Civil Aviation (CYBER/49), Vienna
- 24 28th meeting between the Coordinating Committee and the US authorities (CC-US/28), Paris
- 25 162nd meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA/162), Paris
- 25-26 22nd meeting of the ECAC Certified Aviation Security Auditors Group (AUD/22), Warsaw/hybrid
- 29-30 61st meeting of the Guidance Material Task Force (GMTF/61), videoconference

Calendar

