



FACILITATION

Reinforcing European engagement ahead of ICAO Facilitation Panel

Videoconference, 9 February 2026

— Gathering online for its 27th meeting, the European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL/27) advanced experts' preparations for the ICAO Facilitation Panel (FALP/14), to be held in Montreal in April 2026.

Co-chaired by Italy (on behalf of ECAC) and the European Commission, the meeting focused on draft working papers and strategic outreach on key facilitation priorities ahead of the Panel. Participants exchanged their expert views on proposed papers addressing irregular migration by air, accessibility and inclusive airports, assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, unruly passengers, and emerging topics such as pet transportation.

The next ECG-FAL meetings will take place in March and April, to support experts' preparations for FALP/14. ●



MEMBER STATES

Albania signs ECAC Convention

Paris, 19 February 2026 — Albania signed the Convention on the Bureau of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) during a ceremony held at the headquarters of the French Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGAC) in February, marking an important step in reinforcing ECAC's institutional framework.

The Convention was signed by H.E. Dritan Tola, Ambassador of Albania to France. With this signature, the total number of signatory countries rises to 18 — a clear demonstration of ECAC Member States' shared commitment to strengthening cooperation and enhancing support for civil aviation across Europe.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Embassy of Albania in France, to the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and to the DGAC for their valued support and warm hospitality in hosting the signing ceremony. ●



ECAC Doc 30, Part I (Facilitation), 13th edition - Amendment 1 now available

ECAC has adopted and published [Amendment 1 to Doc 30, Part I \(Facilitation\), 13th edition](#).

This amendment supports harmonised implementation of facilitation provisions across all 44 ECAC Member States in key areas such as passenger processes, accessibility, and assistance to persons

with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility. It also reflects recent developments in international facilitation standards and maintains consistency with the provisions of ICAO Annex 9.

The revision was prepared by the dedicated Doc 30 workstream under the ECAC Facilitation Working Group, whose experts

conducted a comprehensive and balanced review.

ECAC warmly thanks all those involved in the update for their professionalism and commitment throughout the process. ●

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ECAC Group on Security Testing advances 2026 work programme and tackles practical challenges

Videoconference, 4-5 February 2026 — The main task of the ECAC Group on Security Testing at its meeting on 4-5 February was to agree on the allocation of responsibilities and timelines required to deliver its 2026 work programme. Six new or revised guidance documents will be produced to bring the body of work up to date on matters including testing related to detection of improvised explosive devices and cargo security.

The group also shared experience on practical challenges, such as ensuring the

covert nature of testing in situations where testers are few and known to the regulated parties.

Discussions also addressed how to strike the balance between using realistic test pieces with the need to maintain the random and unpredictable use of different types of test, while managing the risk of the item being accidentally flown.

These – and other – items will be discussed in more detail at a meeting later this year with a view to identifying possible solutions. ●



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European coordination group discusses positions ahead of key ICAO security meetings

Videoconference, 6 February 2026 — Representatives of the European Coordination Group on Aviation Security met online to finalise the group's contribution to a letter to Member States concerning the ICAO State Letter on Amendment 19 to Annex 17.

Members also discussed preparations for forthcoming ICAO meetings, including the ICAO Secretariat Study Group on Universal Security Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USAP-CMA), where

amendments to protocol questions would be discussed.

Looking ahead to the 37th ICAO Aviation Security Panel (AVSECP/37, Montreal/ videoconference, 13–17 April), the group identified priority topics for European experts' engagement. These include developments on one-stop security, the prioritisation of ICAO's aviation security work programme, and planning for the High-Level Conference on Aviation Security. ●

First meeting of ECAC Technical Task Force in 2026

Videoconference, 4-5 February 2026 — The ECAC Technical Task Force convened its first meeting of 2026 to discuss this year's work programme and establish a structured agenda for the months ahead.

In 2026, the task force will focus both on new deliverables and on refining existing technical guidance. A key priority is the development of a new simulants validation protocol, alongside a concept paper on threat image projection (TIP) for automated prohibited items detection software (APIDS) and the Image on Alarm (IOA) concept of operations (CONOPs). These documents are intended for inclusion in the ECAC Aviation Security Handbook.

At the same time, several existing technical documents will be reviewed and updated, including the ECAC common routine testing methodologies for security equipment, and TIP requirements for cabin baggage and hold baggage screening.

Progress has also been made on the development of 3D image quality requirements and 3D standard test piece (STP)-2. ●

Training Task Force addresses emerging training challenges and sets 2026 priorities

Videoconference, 12-13 February 2026 — Meeting online in February, the ECAC Training Task Force decided on the allocation of work and timelines for delivering its 2026 work programme. Seven new or revised training guidance documents will be produced, including material on training in the use of liquids screening equipment and on practical and theoretical tests for screener certification.

The group also examined current challenges affecting training delivery and effectiveness. These included staff turnover, the transition of screeners to new screening techniques when new technology was introduced, and the need to maintain and improve performance in hand searches and image recognition. Members also considered research into the potential side effects of errors generated by automated alarms intended to help screeners. ●

Behaviour Detection Study Group advances guidance and sets 2026 agenda

Videoconference, 25-26 February 2026 — Convening online in February, the Behaviour Detection Study Group finalised the texts of two guidance documents following comments from ECAC's Security Programme Management Group (SPMG),

and concluded its revision of a chapter of Doc 30, Part II (Security).

Members also planned their work for 2026, comprising three additional guidance documents alongside mentoring and

knowledge-sharing activities on the subject of behaviour detection. Updates from member and observer States highlighted the increasing integration of behaviour detection into aviation security, as well as the proliferation of related research. ●

First meeting of explosive detection dogs experts in 2026

Lisbon, 25-26 February 2026 — The ECAC Study Group on Explosive Detection Dogs (EDD-SG) met in Lisbon to review progress in enhancing performance standards for EDD, including expanding the list of detectable explosives and implementing the enhanced standards.

Following a dedicated discussion on the capability of EDDs to detect incendiary devices, the study group agreed to submit this topic for consideration by Member States at the forthcoming Security Forum meeting, to be held in Tbilisi on 6-7

May 2026. In addition, the study group brainstormed ideas for updating the ECAC guidance material on the use of EDD for vehicle examination. Work on this document will continue at the next meeting, scheduled for June 2026.

On the margins of the meeting, a practical EDD training session was organised for the study group members by the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) and the Special Police Unit (K9 Unit) of the Portuguese National Police. ●



© Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) and the Special Police Unit (K9 Unit) of the Portuguese National Police

ECONOMIC MATTERS

Steering Committee continues work on ECAC/EU Dialogue programme

Videoconference, 20 February 2026 — The Steering Committee preparing the 2026 ECAC/EU Dialogue – addressing the resilience of the aviation sector – met online for its second session to advance preparations for the event, which will be held in Paris on 13–14 October. The meeting brought together ECAC Member State representatives, the European Commission and industry stakeholders, reflecting the collaborative approach underpinning the event.

Discussions focused primarily on further developing the draft programme. The Committee clarified the three session themes, sharpening their respective focus and ensuring a clear distinction between them. Members also identified a range of key topics to explore and considered potential moderators, speakers and panellists.

The draft programme will be presented to ECAC's Coordinating Committee for consideration on 18 March. The Steering Committee will meet again at the end of March to continue preparations. ●

A warm welcome to our new administrative assistant!



Paris, 2 March 2026 — We are delighted to welcome Alessia Houghton-Clarke as our new administrative assistant, starting 2 March.

Alessia, who holds dual Swedish/British nationality, first joined ECAC in March 2025 as a trainee for the CASE II Project, after completing a master's degree in development studies. Following the Project's closure, she continued her traineeship within the ECAC

Secretariat, where she has gained valuable insight into our work and built connections across the team.

Over the past year, Alessia has enjoyed learning more about the aviation sector and the important role ECAC plays within it. Her experience, enthusiasm, and commitment have already made a positive impact, and we are very pleased that she will now continue her journey with us in this new role! ●



What's on in March?

- 4 March: 14th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment participating test centres (CEP-TC/14), videoconference
- 10 March: 28th meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation (ECG-FAL/28), videoconference
- 10-12 March: 67th meeting of the Common Evaluation Process (CEP) of security equipment Management Group (CEP-MG/67), videoconference
- 17 March: 44th ECAC Special Plenary Session, Madrid
- 17 March: Ad hoc DGCA meeting, Madrid
- 18 March: 207th meeting of the Coordinating Committee (CC/207), Madrid
- 24-25 March: Workshop on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, videoconference



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