



EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

CONFERENCE EUROPEENNE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

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Plenary Session of the European Civil Aviation Conference – Celebrating sixty years of working together

The European Civil Aviation Conference commemorated the sixtieth anniversary of its creation during its thirty-fourth Plenary Session

Strasbourg, 01 July 2015 — The European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) celebrated six decades of European cooperation since its creation in 1955 during its triennial Plenary Session held on 30 June and 1 July. Gathered in the European Parliament premises, Directors General of ECAC Member States were joined by high level representatives from a wide range of ICAO Member States, international and regional organisations, including ICAO itself, IATA and ACI Europe, to name only a few, on this occasion.

Initiated by a 1953 ICAO Council's Resolution confirming its intention to cooperate with the Council of Europe on determining a new civil aviation organisation for Europe, ECAC held its inaugural Session in Strasbourg in 1955 with then 19 Member States. Today 44 Members-strong, the widest membership of European civil aviation organisations, ECAC has been a driving force in promoting the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable air transport system in Europe for six decades. Supported by the Paris-based Secretariat led by Executive Secretary Salvatore Sciacchitano, it provides a unique forum for Directors General across the continent to discuss current issues and ensure a united European position in the global arena. ECAC also pioneered the concept of regional organisations which went on to be created in Latin America, African and Arab countries, as President of the Council of ICAO Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu emphasised in his opening address: *“The ECAC model soon inspired the creation of other regional civil aviation bodies around the world. The organisational, administrative and financial arrangements adopted for these new regional bodies were consistent with those applied between ICAO and ECAC”*.

To mark this anniversary, the first day of the Session was devoted to reflecting on ECAC's achievements and challenges for the future, with opening addresses by ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils, ICAO Council President Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin, Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai, and European Commission Director of Aviation and International Transport Affairs Margus Rahuoja.

“2015 holds a particular significance for ECAC as the organisation celebrates its 60th anniversary. ECAC was established after the second World War by 19 countries, which saw an opportunity to build an organisation that would serve and support the development of air transport in Europe” highlighted ECAC President Ingrid Cherfils in her opening remarks *“Today ECAC has 44 Member States, the largest civil aviation organisation in Europe, and many other States from around the world are associated to our activities. This diamond celebration invites us to reflect on the achievements of past years (...) It is also natural to look towards our future with ambition and enthusiasm.”*

ECAC Member States and industry partners went on to debate the developments of European air transport over sixty years and the challenges faced in the present competitive market. ICAO Secretary General Raymond Benjamin delivered the keynote address to the afternoon session on ECAC's achievements since its creation, which were also highlighted by ECAC's sister regional organisations (ACAC, AFCAC,

LACAC) and other European organisations, such as EASA and EUROCONTROL.

The end of the day saw the signature of a new Cooperation Agreement between ECAC and Malaysia, represented by its Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai.

On the second day, the meeting focused on formal decisions in relation to ECAC's work programme and budget for the 2016-2018 period. It re-elected Ingrid Cherfils (Director General of Civil Aviation for Sweden) as ECAC President and confirmed the appointment of Patrick Gandil and Bilal Eksi (Directors General of Civil Aviation for France and Turkey respectively) as ECAC Vice-Presidents. The full membership of ECAC executive Co-ordinating Committee is available of the [ECAC website](#).

The moderators, panellist and presenters who contributed during the 34th Session included:

Abdulai Alhassan (President, AFCAC), Mike Ambrose (former ECAC associate), Frank Brenner (Director General, EUROCONTROL), Mirjana Cizmarov (Director General for Civil Aviation, Serbia), Frank Durinckx (former Director General for Civil Aviation, Belgium, and former ECAC Focal Point for Facilitation and Security), Bilal Eksi (Director General for Civil Aviation, Turkey), Maris Gorodcovs (Director General for Civil Aviation, Latvia), Patricia Hayes (Director General for Civil Aviation, United Kingdom), Athar Husain Khan (CEO, AEA), Patrick Ky (Executive Director, EASA), Sylviane Lust (Director General, IACA), Simon McNamara (Director General, ERA), Jan Pie (Secretary General, ASD), Catalin Radu (former Director General for Civil Aviation, Romania, and former ECAC President), Gerold Reichle (Director General for Civil Aviation, Germany), Tony Tyler (Director General and CEO, IATA), Michel Wachenheim (former President of ECAC) and Urs Ziegler (Head of the Office's Environmental Protection Unit, Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation).

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NOTE TO EDITORS

The European Civil Aviation Conference brings together the widest grouping of States of any European organisation dealing with civil aviation, being currently composed of 44 Member States (see list below). Based in Paris, ECAC has since 1955 promoted the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system. In so doing, it seeks to harmonise civil aviation policies and practices amongst its Member States, and to promote understanding on policy matters between its Member States and other regions of the world. A policy statement on "ECAC's Strategy for the Future" can be found on the [ECAC website](#).

ECAC's Member States are: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.