



International Civil Aviation Organization

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ICAO NEWS RELEASE

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RAYMOND BENJAMIN APPOINTED NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF ICAO

MONTREAL, 27 February 2009 - The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has appointed Raymond Benjamin of France as the new Secretary General of the Organization for a three-year term, beginning 1 August 2009. He succeeds Dr. Taïeb Chérif, of Algeria, who has held the position since 2003.

Mr. Benjamin's 33-year career in civil aviation began in 1976 with the French Civil Aviation Administration. After a year with the Human Resources Division, he was given the responsibility for negotiating bilateral air transport agreements on behalf of the Administration.

In 1982, Mr. Benjamin joined the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) as an Air Transport Officer. A year later, he was appointed Deputy Secretary, a position he held for six years. In 1989, he came to ICAO as Chief of the Aviation Security Branch, where he advised on security policy matters and was involved in the development of a worldwide airport assessment and technical assistance programme for States. He also participated in the establishment of a network of aviation security training schools and standardized training packages (STPs). In addition, he served as Secretary of the ICAO Aviation Security Panel and the ICAO Group of Experts for the Detection of Plastic Explosives.

Following his career at ICAO, Mr. Benjamin became Executive Secretary of ECAC from 1994 to 2007, where he was responsible for policy advice and strategies in the areas of safety, security, and the environment. He was also responsible for integrating newer Member States into the European regulatory system and fostering relations with other regional organizations and ICAO.

Mr. Benjamin is currently Special Adviser to the Joint Aviation Authorities Training Organization (JAA/TO) and to the European Aviation Security Training Institute (EASTI).

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A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created in 1944 to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection. The Organization serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 190 Contracting States.