

Search and Rescue

01 September 2020

ICAO EUR/NAT

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RD Brief



ICAO

I. WELCOME

In this edition it is a pleasure for me to draw your attention on the topic of “Search and Rescue”, a topic on which it is usually not reported often.

The ICAO EUR Region covers a very complex airspace (55 States), and certain States occupy multiple Flight Information Regions (FIRs), Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs), requiring much inter-state cooperation between Member States.



In 2015, the ICAO Council emphasized the importance of the global implementation of Search and Rescue (SAR) development work, that aligns with the recommendation where contracting States should, whenever necessary, coordinate their SAR operations with those of neighbouring States especially when such operations are proximate to adjacent SAR regions. Since then, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office is working to improve search and rescue activities in the ICAO EUR Region.

USOAP audits focus on a State's capability in providing safety oversight by assessing whether or not the State has effectively and consistently implemented the critical elements of a safety oversight system.

In that respect, the audit outcomes of the State's safety oversight capabilities (USOAP audits), calculated for each critical element related to Air Navigation System (ANS) and Search and Rescue demonstrated a significant lack in effective implementation of certain Protocol Questions regarding SAR provisions.

While aiming for effective improvement in the implementation of SAR provisions and its capabilities in the ICAO EUR Region, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office proposed certain coordinated actions to be engaged in henceforth. Furthermore, due to the complexity of the above-mentioned activities and following the success of the establishment of the first EUR SAR Task Force (EURSAR/TF), a second EURSAR/TF was established in 2019, whose objectives will be described here below in the present brief.

Membership of the ICAO EUR SAR/TF is open to States, administrations who have the

responsibility for the implementation of SAR services and facilities within the ICAO EUR Region, as well as SAR related international organizations ICAO and IMO.

It is also a pleasure to present you with the outcome of the ICAO Search and Rescue Workshop, organized in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Directorate of the Republic of Serbia in 2019.

Furthermore, you are all welcome to participate in the Search and Rescue Webinar Series, an interesting initiative that we organized in partnership with ICAO HQ. Attendance details are provided here below.

I hope that the following topics will inspire ideas and discussions around the ways that we can develop a better SAR system in the Region.

Enjoy the reading,

Silvia Gehrler

II. IMPROVING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY IN ICAO EUR REGION

ICAO EUR SAR Task Force

Although the ICAO EUR Region has established SAR Agreements for certain States, most of them needed to be updated, in particular to include all SAR elements such as reference of assistance to other States SAR assets and SAR Exercises (SAREX).

In 2014, the European Air Navigation Planning Group (EANPG) established the EUR SAR/TF to discuss, submit concepts and fill gaps in SAR capabilities in order to improve the overall capability of the SAR system throughout the EUR Region. During its life cycle, the EUR SAR/TF considered ways to enhance and improve SAR capability in the Region.

Following its fruitful achievements, in 2019 the EASPG (previously EANPG) decided to establish a new SAR Task Force with the purpose to coordinate with other ongoing efforts on SAR to avoid duplication of efforts, to ensure benefits for the EUR SAR community, and to ensure a transparent development of a globally harmonized framework through a group of SAR experts.

In addition, in collaboration with affected stakeholders and in close cooperation with the IMO, the objective of the EUR SAR/TF is to promote the enhancement and improvement of SAR facilities and services within the ICAO EUR Region and adjacent ICAO Regions.

ICAO EUR SAR Workshop and SAREX

The year 2019 was marketed by several SAR activities in the Region such as the *ICAO Search and Rescue Workshop*. This event, combined with a SAR exercise (SAREX), was an outstanding two-day event with more than 120 participants. It was held in Belgrade, Serbia, from 16 to 18 September 2019, and was organized in cooperation with Civil Aviation Directorate of the Republic of Serbia.

On the second day of the ICAO SAR Workshop, a major international search and rescue exercise in civil aviation was wrapped up following a three-day activity in Vrsac airport. Organized by the Directorate of Civil Aviation (CAD), having over 150 professionals from around the world, along with the full capacity search and rescue exercise.

III. ICAO EUR REGION SAR PLAN

One of the most important outcomes of the first edition of the EUR SAR/TF was the development of the ICAO EUR Region SAR Plan. The Plan is a regional planning guidance associated with other regional guidance material, in order to enable States to define the goals and means of meeting objectives for State planning towards improving State SAR System capability. One of the objectives of the EUR SAR Plan is to provide guidelines and recommendations for EUR States for the enhancement and improvement of national, sub-regional and regional SAR capabilities.

IV. SEARCH AND RESCUE WEBINAR SERIES

Based on the very positive outcome of the ICAO SAR Workshop in 2019, the ICAO EUR/NAT Office planned a recurrence , in 2020, of two workshops with the same structure but it was not possible due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, a solution was thought of when the ICAO HQ offered an opportunity to promote our SAR activities via webinar.

As a result of this initiative, ICAO is hosting a series of five webinars that will address various Search and Rescue activities in the EUR Region. Though this series is based on European experiences, it is open to participants from around the world. Each webinar will cover different SAR concepts and will allow for a Q&A period.

The objective of the ICAO EUR SAR Webinar Series will be to raise awareness about the current SAR activities in the EUR Region, including the three Maghreb States, share other ICAO Regions and States' experience and address Regional SAR implementation matters. Additionally, during the Series, recommendations for the implementation of future SAR concepts in the EUR Region will be presented.

The first session, *ICAO SAR REGIONAL FRAMEWORK*, was held on 10 August 2020 with very positive feedback. It was attended by over 120 participants from several States (SAR management and operational staff), international organizations, airline operators and SAR personal.

Webinars will also be held to discuss new standards in support of Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS), the European Union's Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS) GALILEO services and applications and COSPAS-SARSAT activities. The Series will include a webinar by the Civil Aviation Directorate of the Republic of Serbia providing an example of a SAREX and its outcomes.

V. WEBINAR SERIES TOPICS

ICAO SAR REGIONAL FRAMEWORK

Held on 10 August 2020 - Recording is [now available here.](#)

COSPAS-SARSAT

3 September 2020, 1500 Paris/0900 Montreal - NEW DATE

REGIONAL SAR INITIATIVES AND SAREX

8 September 2020, 1500 Paris/0900 Montreal

GALILEO SAR

21 September 2020 1500 Paris / 0900 Montreal

GLOBAL AERONAUTICAL DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GADSS)

5 October 2020, 1500 Paris / 0900 Montreal

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Upcoming SAR webinar Series are available for registration at:

<https://www.icao.int/Meetings/webinar-series/Pages/Search-and-Rescue-Webinar-Series.aspx>

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The next RD brief will circulate during the week of 15 September 2020. The focus will be on Economic developments and related ICAO tools.