I. Welcome

The ICAO EUR/NAT Office held the EUR/NAT Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) virtual meeting on harmonised regional operational guidance for the restart of civil aviation on 17 September 2020.

Fifty-four representatives from 30 States, European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL were informed of the progress on the CART implementation and were presented with the global and regional activities designed to support the 56 EUR/NAT States to enable them to be best equipped to restart international air transport and recover from the COVID-19 crisis.

The main objective of the meeting was to review the monitoring report on the EUR/NAT progress on the implementation of CART recommendations and measures based on CCRD and CRRIC information, discuss further actions jointly developed by EASA and ICAO EUR/NAT to enable a harmonised implementation of the CART recommendations and measures, and exchange of information on implementation related issues, best practices and plans.

Enjoy the reading.

Silvia Gehrer

II. EUR/NAT States progress of implementation on CART recommendations and measures based on CCRD and CRRIC information

ICAO established the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) to assist States in monitoring, documenting and reporting their progress in the implementation of the CART recommendations. [https://portal.icao.int/CRRIC/Pages/default.aspx](https://portal.icao.int/CRRIC/Pages/default.aspx)

The progress of reporting through CRRIC is not so encouraging in the EUR/NAT region. Out of the 56 States to which ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office is accredited:

- 38 have a CRRIC Focal Point
- 18 have not yet nominated their Focal Point
Figure 1 below provides the level of implementation by State as reported through CRICC.

The CRRIC activity dashboard and comparison between ICAO Regions is presented in Figure 2.

EUR/NAT States are urged to nominate focal points and complete their reporting. ICAO has delivered a number of webinars to assist States in this action. Recorded Webinars are available to inform participants about the use of the different tools accessible on the CRRIC and to demonstrate their use.


On 28 September 2020 a CRRIC Webinar for the EUR/NAT Region was held. Additional webinars are planned in order to support States.

III. Fostering Harmonised implementation - EASA/ECDC protocol as aligned acceptable means of compliance for CART implementation in the EUR/NAT

During the DGCA meeting, a presentation was provided jointly by EASA, Mr. Luc Tytgat (Strategy and Safety Management Director) and ICAO EUR/NAT, Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov
(Deputy Regional Director) and Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos (Regional Officer, ANS), presenting some proposals on the way forward to foster the CART implementation in the EUR/NAT Regions with the support of EASA. Based on the agreement at the previous EUR/NAT DGCA telcon on 24 July 2020, ICAO EUR/NAT Office and EASA, in collaboration with other stakeholders, decided to work together and explore potential solutions to foster a regionally harmonised implementation of the CART recommendations and measures.

The main focus in this work was to support a harmonised implementation rather than the development of another guidance level document. The intent was to capitalise on the existing EASA/ECDC existing guidance document (Protocol) with the benefits of a single document that was agreed by both Civil Aviation and Public Health Organisations.

Therefore, the EUR/NAT DGCA meeting agreed that ICAO EUR/NAT Office and EASA would send a co-signed letter to EUR/NAT States with the objective of showing a common response to the crisis and referring to the EASA/ECDC Protocol as an aligned acceptable means of compliance to implement the CART Guidelines and Take-off Document.

The joint letter, focusing only on Recommendation 4 of the CART Report (PH measures alignment), includes an appendix highlighting the high level differences between EASA/ECDC guidelines and CART.

With this common approach, the objective is to provide States, operators and passengers with a safe, clear and harmonised set of guidelines elaborated together by aviation and health authorities.

ICAO is providing guidance material for public health measures through the CAPSCA Programme and technical assistance activities to support the States through the regional CAPSCA EUR. Health safety promotion material is also made available by EASA to assist national competent authorities in the implementation of the Protocol. In addition, inspection checklists are available for States upon request to support the monitoring of the implementation of the recommended measures.

In close coordination with the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office, EASA and ECDC will continue to review and update the Protocol in line with the industry feedback received through the Charter programme. ICAO EUR/NAT Office and EASA will continue to work together on information sharing and capacity building activities to support the States.

The joint letter is a regional reply to ICAO State Letter 2020/80 regarding the ICAO Global Roadmap supporting the implementation of the recommendations and guidance of the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force for the restart, recovery and resilience of civil aviation following the COVID-19 Outbreak (Global Implementation Roadmap).

Both documents, EASA Protocol and ICAO Global Implementation Roadmap, will evolve over time based on the latest scientific evidence and each party will cooperate to align their guidance with the next update. Discussion will also continue concerning the reporting on the implementation progress with the aim of further streamlining the existing processes.
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The next RD brief will be issued during the week of 12 October 2020. The focus will be on the outcomes of the ICAO EUR/NAT workshop on Sustainable Funding of States Civil Aviation Authorities