

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION – EAST EUR REGION
TELECONFERENCE MEETING (EUR-DGCA/2020-2 (EAST))

(Paris, France, 16 April 2020)

1. Introduction

1.1 The teleconference-based Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the eastern part of the ICAO European Region (EUR-DGCA/2020-2 (EAST)) was held on 16 April 2020.

1.2 51 participants from 9 States and 2 international and regional organizations took part in the teleconference. The list of participants is provided in **Appendix A**.

1.3 The Meeting was convened in connection with the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis that heavily affected all aspects of civil aviation and with the following main objectives:

- a) Provide a briefing on ICAO COVID-19 impact assessment and crisis response measures;
- b) Share best practices/lessons learned;
- c) Capture the short and long term needs of States and the aviation industry;
- d) Planning for a recovery phase.

1.4 The Meeting was opened by Ms. Silvia Gehrler, Regional Director, Europe and North Atlantic, who welcomed the participants and outlined the main objectives and goals of the meeting.

1.5 The following Agenda was proposed and approved:

- Agenda Item 1: Briefing on ICAO COVID-19 crisis response measures;
- Agenda Item 2: Round table discussion on current needs, lessons learnt and recovery planning.

2. Agenda item 1

2.1 The ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov, provided a presentation that included information on the latest ICAO COVID-19 crisis response measures at the global and regional levels.

2.2 It was noted that, from the historical perspective, the rapidly evolving COVID-19 crisis has an unprecedented impact on the aviation industry overall. ICAO's crisis response included a number of actions providing guidance and tools to assist States and aviation industry to cope with the crisis impact. A summary of the latest ICAO State Letters (2020/15 of 13 February 2020, 2020/46 of 18 March 2020, 2020/47 of 20 March 2020 and 2020/50 of 03 April 2020) that required some follow up actions from the States' civil aviation authorities was provided.

2.3 It was also highlighted that this conference was a follow-up of the general EUR/NAT DGCA teleconference held on 8 April 2020. Another sub-regional DGCA teleconference would be held on 20 April 2020 for the Northern African DGCA's of the EUR Region. Additional teleconferences, webinars and other assistance activities could be organised by the ICAO EUR/NAT Office on request from States.

2.4 The Meeting was also informed that ICAO has initiated an action on the development of an ICAO recovery plan.

2.5 The ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Officer, Safety, Mr. Arkadii Merkulov, provided a presentation on the COVID-19 contingency operational safety measures framework clarifying the action required by States to address issues identified in State Letter 2020/50 of 03 April 2020.

2.6 It was further supported by a presentation by IATA that provided the industry perspective. In particular, proper information promulgation through NOTAMs was identified of high importance.

2.7 Furthermore, IAC and Kazakhstan provided a summary of their crisis response measures and plans.

3. Agenda item 2

3.1 The round table discussion was opened by Mr. Levan Karanadze, Director General of Civil Aviation of Georgia and Vice-Chair of the ICAO EUR/NAT DGCA, who highlighted the need to look at the crisis management from a bigger picture. In many States, CAAs and even national facilitation committees were not the decision makers in the existing situation. He welcomed the harmonized approach in application of operational measures promulgated by ICAO through State Letter 2020/50 and the coordinated response that was required from States.

3.2 The meeting participants provided feedback on the current situation in their States and actions planned. Many States have confirmed that they are in the process or have already issued exemptions with regards to aviation personnel licences. Work on completion and submission to ICAO of the requested information was also ongoing.

3.3 The need for a harmonized approach was highlighted, also taking into account the work taking place in EASA.

3.4 Several States asked a question about recommended validity periods for exemptions. Different approaches were noted, varying from 60 days to 4 months. The ICAO Chief for Operational Safety Section, Mr. Miguel Marin, clarified that this approach should be based on the individual situation of the State and its own risk assessment.

3.5 The following additional needs were identified through these discussions;

- a) Cooperation among CAAs in authorization of flights (cargo, repatriation, humanitarian, etc);
- b) Alternative arrangements in extension of safe-lifecycles for airframes, engines and life limit spare parts that require coordination with aircraft design and manufacturer organizations;
- c) Separate fora to address the facilitation measures, as well as health protection for aviation security personnel and organization of aviation security in COVID-19 circumstances.

3.6 In addition, the need for all remaining EUR States to join the ICAO CAPSCA (Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and management of public health events in Civil Aviation)-EUR was emphasised. In this regard, the intention of Kazakhstan to send a nomination letter was noted.

4. Any other business

4.1 The Meeting was closed by the ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director, who thanked participants for their active contribution. Follow up sub-regional teleconferences, webinars and direct assistance to States will be organised on request to address the identified issues.

APPENDIX A — LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*(Paragraph 1.2 refers)***ARMENIA**

Stepan. PAYASLYAN
Tatevik REVAZYAN
Galust POGHOSYAN
David SARUKHANYAN
Simon ASATRYAN

BELARUS

Artem SIKORSKY
Evghenia SUKHAREVSKAYA
Oleg YAKOVLEV

GEORGIA (EASPG Vice Chair)

Levan KARANADZE

KAZAKHSTAN

Zhanat ABDUGALIMOV
Darkhan KATYSHEV
Kanat KULJANOV
Linda ORLADY
Yekaterina POPOVA
Aigerim SHALEKENOVA
Zhanna SHEK

KYRGYZSTAN

Kurmanbek AKYSHEV
Bolot MAMBETOV

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Eugen COSTEI
Evgheni KOSTETKI

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Pavlina MALININA
Alexey NOVGORODOV
Vladimir CHERTOK

TURKMENISTAN

Suleyman DURDYIEV
Vepa ANNAMEREDOV
Azat ATAMURADOV
Murad KOTUROV
Rinat TAMAYEV

UKRAINE

Oleksandr BILCHUK
Danylo DAVYDOV

IAC

Sergey IVASHOV
Victor RUKHLINSKIY
Elena SKOMOROKHINA
Roman VDOVENKO
Lyubov ZHOLUDEVA
Svetlana KOZLOVA

IATA

Dmitry KOSOLAPOV

ICAO

Silvia GEHRER
Elkhan NAHMADOV
Miguel MARIN
Arkadii MERKULOV
Arnaud DESJARDIN
Blandine FERRIER
Abbas NIKNEJAD
Sarantis POULIMENAKOS
Cornelia LUDORF
Christopher KEOHAN
Celso FIGUEIREDO
Carolyne OTTIENO
Leyla SULEYMANOVA
Natalia SAVVINA

— **END** —