

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION - EUR/NAT REGIONS
TELECONFERENCE MEETING (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2020-5)**

(Paris, France, 24 July 2020)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Special virtual information session on the ICAO Global Implementation Roadmap (GIR) and Regional Plan supporting the implementation of the recommendations and guidance issued by the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) for the post COVID-19 restart, recovery and resilience of civil aviation for the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Regions (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2020-5) was held on 24 July 2020.

1.2 69 participants from 31 States and 6 International and Regional Organizations took part in the teleconference. The list of participants is provided in **Appendix A**.

1.3 The Agenda included the following items:

- a) briefing on the ICAO GIR and EUR/NAT regional implementation plan; and
- b) round table discussion to share information on implementation related issues, developments and plans.

1.4 The Meeting was opened by Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO, who highlighted that the GIR objective was to contribute to the restart and recovery of the civil aviation system, by establishing an enabling framework for the CART guidelines, and a capability to follow up globally to assess their implementation status and address the challenges being faced by States and industry. Guided by the principle of ‘working as one aviation team’, the GIR also underwent a detailed consultation with United Nations (UN) colleagues at the World Health Organization (WHO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), and International Organization for Migration (IOM), our industry partners at Airports Council International (ACI), Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), the International Coordinating Council of Aerospace Industries Associations (ICCAIA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), International Business Aviation Council (IBAC), and The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), as well as regional organizations and commissions, including African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), European Union (EU), European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC). The GIR encompasses ICAO’s priority activities and initiatives in an outcome-driven format.

1.5 Ms. Silvia Gehrer, Regional Director of the ICAO Europe and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Regional Office, outlined the instrumental role of aviation in post-crisis recovery and the pivotal importance of the States’ engagement to implement CART recommendations and guidance.

2. Agenda item 1

2.1 Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov, Deputy Regional Director ICAO EUR/NAT, presented a briefing on the contents of the GIR and regional plan supporting the CART recommendations and guidance implementation.

2.2 In follow up to this presentation, the Representative from Iceland, Ms. Hlin Holm (NAT SPG Chair), commended the ICAO EUR/NAT Office for the organisation of this teleconference and briefed the meeting about the NAT SPG actions to facilitate the restart and the recovery of flight operations in the North Atlantic airspace. She also requested more information on the proposed ICAO CAPSCA Public Health

Corridor COVID-19 Assistance Review (referred to as the PHC COVID-19 Review hereafter). Dr. Ansa Jordaan, Chief of the Aviation Medicine Section at ICAO Headquarters, explained that the PHC COVID-19 Review is a verification of the implementation of the ICAO CART and CAPSCA PHC guidance material relating to COVID-19, taking into account:

- a) Applicable reference documents (CART report and Take-off guidance document, relevant CAPSCA documents and the PHC documents);
- b) Associated procedures, forms and checklists; and
- c) Any observations, comments, recommendations and debriefings.

3.3 The main objective of the reviews was to facilitate harmonized implementation of the CART and CAPSCA PHC guidance. This would contribute to mutual recognition by States, restoring passenger confidence in air travel and contributing to the economic recovery of the aviation sector, as well as improvement of the guidance material and procedures and capacity building through sharing of knowledge, skills and best practices during the reviews.

3. Agenda item 2

3.1 The round table discussion was opened by Mr. Luis Miguel Ribeiro, Chairman of the ICAO EUR/NAT DGCA and European Aviation System Planning Group (EASPG), and Chairman of the Board of the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC), who also thanked ICAO for the development of the GIR and highlighted the EASPG's commitment to continue ensuring the regional coordination for harmonised implementation of the CART recommendations and supporting the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms, as well as provision of feedback on the implementation progress and challenges to the ICAO Council. Mr. Ribeiro also provided information on the current status and plans for restart in Portugal.

3.2 Discussions were continued by comments from the Deputy Director of CAA of Turkey, Mr. Serdar Karabulut, who specifically highlighted the current challenges that Turkish aircraft operators faced in the restart of operations due to lack of harmonisation and predictability of public health measures implemented by different States.

3.3 Mr. Frank Steffens, Head of International Operations of EASA, provided an update on relevant EASA activities, including information on recently published guidance material, aviation industry charter on COVID-19 and EASA-ECDC Aviation health safety protocol (AHSP). The presentation highlighted some existing challenges, such as, different degrees of the implementation of the guidelines in States, various regulatory approaches including some fundamentally different aviation health safety requirements at State level (e.g. medical face masks) and differing health safety standards among different aviation industry players. It was underlined that there was a need to reinforce monitoring of the industry's adherence to the measures to ensure public confidence and that the measures would be effective only if implemented uniformly by all stakeholders.

3.4 In this regard, the teleconference participants agreed that there was room for further harmonisation at the EUR level. To that end, further work in collaboration between ICAO EUR/NAT, ICAO HQ, EASA and EUR States and organisations could be pursued in order to develop complementary regional guidance that would be based on the CART report recommendations and aligned with EASA guidance. In this work, developments in other parts of the EUR and beyond would also be taken into consideration. The resulting guidance would be a non-binding regionally harmonised document that would complement the CART recommendations and providing additional details and clarifications. The work on development of the guidance could progress under the EASPG framework and to be completed by the end of August 2020.

3.5 Further comments in support of enhanced harmonization were made by the DG of Israel Mr. Joel Feldschuh and DG of Kazakhstan Mr. Peter Griffiths. Mr. Griffiths also provided information on the current state of affairs in the civil aviation system of Kazakhstan and thanked ICAO for their leadership and support to States to enable the soonest restart and recovery of civil aviation.

3.6 Mr. Ian Ross, the Representative for the United States, provided an update from the FAA side, expressing their gratitude for the organization of such teleconferences that are invaluable in enabling information exchange and sharing of experience throughout the EUR/NAT Regions, taking into account the importance of inter-regional cooperation.

4. Any other business

4.1 The Meeting was closed by the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director, who thanked participants for their participation. All States were invited to share their experience on the implementation of the CART measures so that their concerns could be addressed in a coordinated manner.

4.2 The next EUR/NAT DGCA teleconference would be scheduled in the first half of September 2020, the invitation letter and agenda would be circulated as soon as possible.

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### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

#### **Appendix A—List of Participants**

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

Armine DANIELYAN  
Aleksandr SARGSYAN

**AUSTRIA**

Karin PULEO-LEODOLTER

**AZERBAIJAN**

Hajiaga ALIYEV  
Bahruz MALIKOV

**CANADA**

Ryan KENNEDY  
Elsa HENCHIRI

**CYPRUS**

Maria PSILOGENIS

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Marie HAUEROVA

**DENMARK**

Lars Barsalej PEDERSEN

**ESTONIA**

Lea KERSTI

**FINLAND**

Jari PONTINEN  
Johan SKJAL

**FRANCE**

Bertrand de LACOMBE

**GERMANY**

Marina KOSTER  
Manuel SIEG

**ICELAND**

Hlin HOLM

**IRELAND**

Annemarie SMITH

**ISRAEL**

Joel FELDSCHUH  
Eli ALOOK

**ITALY**

Antonello FURIA  
Giovanna LASCHENA

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Peter GRIFFITHS  
Zhanat ABDUGALIMOV  
Linda ORLADY  
Zhanna SHEK  
Ardak UTEPOV

**KYRGYZSTAN**

Genadii SIZINTSEV

**LITHUANIA**

Virginija ZEGUNYTE

**MONTENEGRO**

Vaselin POPOVIC

**NETHERLANDS**

Keeven DUZONG

**POLAND**

Piotr SAMSON

**PORTUGAL**

Luis Miguel Silva RIBEIRO  
Marta MARCOS  
Carla Sofia PINTO  
Victor ROSA  
Silvia SANTOS

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Eugen COSTEI

**ROMANIA**

Armand PETRESCU

**SLOVAKIA**

Mario NEMETH

**SLOVENIA**

Nadja GANTAR

**SPAIN**

Andrés SANCHEZ SANCHEZ

**SWEDEN**

Staffan SODERBERG

**TURKEY**

Serdar KARABULUT

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Sara HILL  
Colin GILL

**UNITED STATES**

Ian H. ROSS  
Heidi AMES

**ACAO**

Khaled ANTAR  
Adel BOULOUTAR  
Abdennebi MANAR  
Mohamed REJEB

**EASA**

Daniela DEFOSSAR  
Frank STEFFENS

**EUROCONTROL**

Eamonn BRENNAN

**IAC**

Sergey ZAYKO

**IATA**

Sergio FERNANDEZ

**ICAO Headquarters**

Fang LIU  
Mohamed Khalifa RAHMA  
Ansa JORDAAN

**ICAO EURNAT**

Silvia GEHRER  
Elkhan NAHMADOV  
Cornelia LUDORF  
Blandine FERRIER  
Patricia CUFF  
Carolyne OTTIENO  
Jérémie MASSON  
Isabelle HOFSTETTER  
Leyla SULEYMANOVA

**- END -**