

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION - EUR/NAT REGIONS
TELECONFERENCE MEETING (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2020-6)

(Paris, France, 17 September 2020)

1. Introduction

1.1 The teleconference meeting of Directors General of Civil Aviation of the ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Regions (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2020-6) was held on 17 September 2020.

1.2 The main objectives of the meeting were to review the monitoring report on the EUR/NAT progress of implementation of the ICAO Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) recommendations and measures based on information from the COVID-19 Contingency Related Differences (CCRD) and COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) online platform, discuss further actions jointly developed by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and ICAO EUR/NAT to enable a harmonised implementation of the CART recommendations and measures, and exchange information on implementation related issues, best practices and plans.

1.3 54 participants from 30 States and 5 International and Regional Organizations took part in the teleconference. The list of participants is provided in **Appendix A**.

1.4 The Meeting was chaired by the ICAO EUR/NAT DGCA Chairman, Mr. Luis Ribeiro (DG CAA of Portugal) who opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and outlining the main objectives of the meeting. The opening address was made by Dr. Fang Liu, Secretary General of ICAO, who informed the meeting about the latest developments and actions by ICAO in support of the restart and recovery of civil aviation and implementation of the CART recommendations. Ms. Silvia Gehrler, 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. Arnaud Desjardin (ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Officer, Safety) presented information on the EUR/NAT States' progress of implementation of CART recommendations and measures based on CCRD and CRRIC information. A low level of responsiveness from the EUR/NAT States compared to other Regions was emphasised and States were urged to nominate their CRRIC focal points and complete information in the CRRIC platform as soon as possible. The status of the participation levels of States in CRRIC, as of 28 September 2020, is presented in **Appendix B**. It was noted that the EUR/NAT Office was available to provide direct assistance to States in this matter whenever required. The links to the ICAO website of recordings of a number of webinars that had been delivered were provided. A specific workshop was planned on 28 September 2020 to provide EUR/NAT States with further guidance on CRRIC and on the reporting of implementation of the CART recommendations.

2.2 The next 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). It proposed a way forward on fostering the CART implementation in the EUR/NAT Regions in collaboration with EASA. It was recalled that this action had been undertaken jointly by EASA and ICAO EUR/NAT based on the agreement of the previous EUR/NAT DGCA teleconference meeting on 24 July 2020 that invited both organisations to explore potential solutions

to promote a regionally harmonised implementation of the CART recommendations and measures, in collaboration with other stakeholders.

2.3 It was noted that the main focus of this work was to support a harmonised implementation rather than to develop another guidance document. The intent was to capitalise on the existing EASA/ECDC guidance with the benefits of a single document that had been agreed by both civil aviation and public health organisations.

2.4 Therefore the EUR/NAT DGCA agreed that ICAO EUR/NAT and EASA would send a jointly signed letter to EUR/NAT States with the objective of showing a common response to the crisis and referring to the EASA/ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) Protocol as an aligned and acceptable means of compliance to implement the CART Guidelines and Take-off Document. The letter would include an Annex highlighting the high level differences between the EASA/ECDC guidelines and the CART. The letter would focus only on Recommendation 4 (PH measures alignment) of the CART report.

2.5 This would provide States, operators and passengers with a safe, clear and harmonised set of guidelines elaborated together by aviation and health authorities. Whilst ICAO was providing guidance material for public health measures through the CAPSCA (Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation) Programme and technical assistance activities to support the States through the regional CAPSCA EUR, health safety promotion material was also being made available by EASA to assist national competent authorities in the implementation of the Protocol. In addition, inspection checklists were available for States upon request to support the monitoring of the implementation of the recommended measures.

2.6 In close coordination with the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office, EASA and ECDC would continue to review and update the Protocol in line with the industry feedback received through the Charter programme and the latest scientific evidence that would become available over time. ICAO EUR/NAT and EASA would continue to work together on information sharing and capacity building activities to support the States. It was noted that as both documents would evolve over time based on the latest scientific evidence, each party would cooperate to align their guidance with the next update.

2.7 It was agreed that the joint letter should be understood as the regional reply to the 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 (CART) for the restart, recovery and resilience of civil aviation following the COVID-19 Outbreak (Global Implementation Roadmap).

2.8 Discussion would also continue concerning the reporting on the implementation progress with the aim of further streamlining the existing processes.

3. Agenda item 2

3.1 Representatives from Austria, Belarus, Finland, France, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Slovakia, Spain and IATA participated in the round-table discussions, sharing their experiences on implementation of the CART recommendations and reporting using the CRRIC.

3.2 In the course of the discussions, the meeting participants expressed their support of the proposed way forward concerning the use of the EASA/ECDC guidance as an acceptable means of compliance for implementation of the CART recommendations. In addition, the need for more guidance on the following issues was highlighted:

- a) Handling of unruly passengers;
- b) Use of tests versus quarantine; and
- c) Harmonized protocols for when a passenger is tested positive on COVID-19.

3.3 It was noted that EASA had established a COVID-19 Aviation Industry Charter Programme to promote the implementation of the Protocol and to monitor its effectiveness. At the time of the meeting, 45 airport organisations, representing approximately 150 airports, and 45 airlines, which captured about 50% of European air traffic, had joined this programme. Having noted that participation in the programme was open to industry stakeholders from all ICAO EUR/NAT States, the meeting invited all stakeholders to join the Charter.

3.4 The importance of close cooperation between the civil aviation and public health authorities was emphasised. To that end, the meeting urged all EUR/NAT States that had not yet joined the CAPSCA, to do so as soon as possible. It was noted that the ICAO EUR/NAT Office would send individual letters to States inviting them to join CAPSCA.

3.5 The meeting urged States to avoid uncoordinated and diverging public health restrictions that was greatly affecting the civil aviation operations. To that end, information from IATA on the traffic trends and impact of uncoordinated restrictions was noted.

4. Any other business

4.1 The Meeting was closed by the Chairman and 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 was planned on 20 October 2020 primarily to discuss the outcomes and recommendations of the ICAO EUR/NAT Workshop on Sustainable Financing for Civil Aviation Authorities that would be convened on 29 September 2020. The participants were invited to participate actively in both the upcoming Workshop and next DGCA teleconference.

~~~~~

#### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A—List of Participants

Appendix B - Status of States' participation in CRRIC

**APPENDIX A — LIST OF PARTICIPANTS***(Paragraph 1.3 refers)***ANDORRA**Guillem SANTACREU  
MARTINEZ**AUSTRIA**Antonina HATLER  
Mag. Elisabeth LANDRICHTER**BELARUS**

Artem Igorevich SIKORSKY

**BELGIUM**

An DE LANGE

**BULGARIA**

Mariya Petrova KANTAREVA

**CANADA**Tyler BROOKS  
Patrick JUNEAU**CYPRUS**Panayiota GEORGIU-  
DEMETRIOU**DENMARK**

Lars Barsalej PEDERSEN

**FINLAND**Johan SKJAL  
Matti TUPAMAKI**FRANCE**Carole LENCK  
Louis TEODORO**GEORGIA**

Levan KARANADZE

**GERMANY**Matthias JEGLITZA  
Raimund KAMP**ICELAND**Halla SIGURDARDOTTIR  
Hlin HOLM  
Jon Gunnar JONSSON**IRELAND**Andrea LENNON  
Jason WHELAN**ISRAEL**Joel FELDSCHUH  
Eli ALOOK**ITALY**

Giovanna LASCHENA

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Zhanna SHEK

**LUXEMBOURG**

Linda MAZZOLA

**MONTENEGRO**

Vaselin POPOVIC

**NETHERLANDS**Hans IJSSELSTIJN  
Richard OSSENDORP  
Ingeborg Van GASTEREN**NORTH MACEDONIA**

Tomislav TUNTEV

**NORWAY**

Karl KOEFOED

**POLAND**

Piotr SAMSON

**PORTUGAL**Jorge CASTANHO  
Marta MARCOS  
Carla Sofia PINTO  
Luis Miguel Silva RIBEIRO**SERBIA**Marija PETROVIC  
Nadezda PETROVSKI**SLOVAKIA**

Mario NEMETH

**SPAIN**

Andrés SANCHEZ SANCHEZ

**SWEDEN**

Anne-Marie RAGNARSSON

**SWITZERLAND**

Laurent NOEL

**UKRAINE**Oleksandr BILCHUK  
Andrii SMYK**EASA**Luc TYTGAT  
Milena KALINITSCH**EUROCONTROL**

Donal HANDLEY

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**Federico GRANDINI  
Georg HASSLINGER**IATA**

Giancarlo BUONO

**ICAO HEADQUARTERS**

Fang LIU

**ICAO EURNAT**Silvia GEHRER  
Elkhan NAHMADOV  
Arnaud DESJARDIN  
Sarantis POULIMENAKOS  
Abbas NIKNEJAD  
Blandine FERRIER  
Patricia CUFF  
Carolyne OTTIENO

**APPENDIX B — PARTICIPATION OF EUR/NAT STATES IN CRRIC**

*(Paragraph 2.1 refers)*

The Civil Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) Report and the Take-off guidance document were approved on 1 June 2020 by the ICAO Council. The report contains, among others, 11 recommendations addressed to Member States.

The CART Report mentions that the level of implementation of the measures contained therein will need to be regularly monitored by ICAO. The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Center (CRRIC) has been created for this monitoring. It also facilitates the sharing of information and experience among States and should facilitate the identification of gaps and needed support.

As of 28 September 2020, the following EUR/NAT States have not reviewed the implementation levels of the CART recommendations in CRRIC. The ones with the mention “(no FP)” have not even designated any Focal Point in CRRIC to allow for the data related to their State in the various apps of the site to be edited.

**States not having reviewed the implementation levels of the CART recommendations in CRRIC  
(28 September 2020)**

|                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Albania                 | Lithuania                         |
| Algeria                 | Luxembourg <i>(no FP)</i>         |
| Andorra                 | Monaco                            |
| Azerbaijan              | Morocco                           |
| Belarus                 | Netherlands                       |
| Belgium                 | Norway                            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina  | Poland                            |
| Bulgaria <i>(no FP)</i> | Portugal                          |
| Croatia <i>(no FP)</i>  | Republic of Moldova               |
| Cyprus                  | Romania                           |
| Czechia                 | Russian Federation <i>(no FP)</i> |
| Denmark                 | Serbia                            |
| Estonia                 | Slovenia                          |
| Germany                 | Sweden                            |
| Hungary                 | Switzerland                       |
| Iceland                 | Tajikistan                        |
| Ireland                 | Turkey                            |
| Israel                  | Turkmenistan <i>(no FP)</i>       |
| Italy                   | Ukraine                           |
| Kyrgyzstan              | Uzbekistan                        |

- END -