

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE  
DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION - EUR/NAT REGIONS  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2021-2)**

*(19 May 2021)*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The teleconference meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of the ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Regions (EUR/NAT-DGCA/2021-2) was held on 19 May 2021.

1.2 The main objectives of the meeting were to receive updates and exchange views on:

- a) CART Phase III status and challenges of implementation;
- b) digitalization of supply chain (a joint ICAO-UNECE project) and lifting of restriction on air cargo operations (CART Recommendation 16);
- c) vaccination and testing certificates;
- d) ICAO Global Dialogue on Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAGs); and
- e) discuss preparations for the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021, October 2021).

1.3 116 participants from 41 States, 7 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). The ICAO EUR/NAT Acting Director, Captain Denis Guindon, was the meeting Secretary, supported by other ICAO personnel.

1.5 The ICAO Secretary General, Dr. Fang Liu, addressed the meeting underscoring that the sustainability and prosperity of EUR/NAT States' economies would rely primarily on their commitment to work together to recover connections to the world, because not one State could achieve this on its own. She also informed the meeting about the latest work in ICAO on visible document seals and preparations for the ICAO High Level COVID-19 Conference in October 2021. In conclusion, as this was likely her last opportunity to address EUR/NAT States as ICAO Secretary General, she also expressed her tremendous gratitude for the partnership and support of the EUR/NAT States throughout the past 6 years, and acknowledged, once again the historic and ongoing contributions of EUR/NAT States to international civil aviation.

1.6 On this occasion, Mr. Ribeiro, on behalf of the EUR/NAT DGCA, thanked Dr. Fang Liu for her great efforts and support of the EUR/NAT DGCA work and the entire civil aviation system at the global level. Her leadership was especially visible and appreciated by all during the times of the COVID-19 crisis that once again underlined the importance of working together under the ICAO umbrella at the global and regional levels. He thanked Dr. Liu for her hard work and leadership and wished her all the best in her future endeavours.

## 2. Agenda item 1: CART Phase III status and challenges of implementation

### *Presentation by ICAO*

2.1 The Meeting was provided with a summary of the changes introduced in the CART Phase III and the *Testing and Cross Border Risk Management Measures Manual* (ICAO Doc 10152), as well as the status of its implementation in the EUR/NAT per the ICAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC) platform.

2.2 In particular, with regard to Recommendation 12, States were encouraged to return to normal compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) as soon as possible. Whenever return to normal compliance was not feasible, States through their National Continuous Monitoring Coordinators (NCMCs) should file relevant Targeted Exemptions (TE).

2.3 Another important area concerned the acceptance of TEs issued by other States, which also needed to be determined and filed by States in the ICAO system.

2.4 It was noted that the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office was available for any assistance requests associated with these actions.

2.5 The Meeting also noted the technical assistance efforts by the ICAO EUR/NAT to assist States in implementation of the CART recommendations, in particular an iPACK on safety management that was successfully completed in Georgia and 6 more that were at various stages of implementation in the areas of Facilitation, Aviation Security and restart of aerodromes.

### *Presentation by IATA*

2.6 IATA presented the airline industry status and challenges with specific highlight on the following:

- a) IATA fully supports CART recommendations and urges States to implement recommendations quickly;
- b) States should speed up risk assessment for vaccinated people;
- c) Requirements for globally accepted COVID-19 test certificates including technology framework for securely creating digital versions and future incorporation of vaccination certificates are essential for restart; and
- d) States to access guidance for targeted extensions of licenses to make best use of it.

### *Presentation by EASA*

2.7 EASA provided the meeting with an update on their actions to support return to normal operations, highlighting that safety remained paramount and maintaining it would be more challenging than ever during the return to normal. The Meeting was invited to note the “Review of Aviation Safety Issues Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic” that was conducted by EASA.

## 3. Agenda item 2: Digitalization of supply chain (a joint ICAO-UNECE project) and lifting of restriction on air cargo operations (CART Rec. 16)

### *Presentation by ICAO*

3.1 The Meeting was presented with an update by ICAO related to CART Recommendation 16 – Facilitating air cargo movement. In this regard, States were encouraged to consider the temporary lifting of restrictions to air cargo operations, including but not limited to granting extra-bilateral rights, in particular for all-cargo services, to foreign airlines to facilitate the transportation of essential goods, supplies and COVID-19 vaccines.

3.2 It was noted that granting of traffic rights, such as the so-called “7th freedom”, for all-cargo operations would help re-establish global air connectivity for cargo for both transport of vaccines and economic recovery in COVID-19 times.

3.3 The Meeting was informed that detailed options and examples were found in the recently released *Guidance on Economic and Financial Measures to Mitigate the Impact of the Coronavirus Outbreak on Aviation*, paragraph 4.2.4. Also, ICAO has published a new *Priority Brief on Air Cargo* that included four considerations on the supply chain, its criticality for the emerging e-commerce driven marketplace, the needs for both regulatory evolution and digitalization and five recommendations include those for digitalization and economic regulatory measures. This brief was available at: [https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/ICAO-PRIORITY-BRIEF\\_Air-Cargo\\_2021.04.19.FINAL.pdf](https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/ICAO-PRIORITY-BRIEF_Air-Cargo_2021.04.19.FINAL.pdf). The Meeting participants were invited to provide feedback on this new material from ICAO.

3.4 Furthermore, the Meeting noted that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) encouraged supply chain actors to digitalize certain procedures, which called for collaborative solutions in document and data exchange. Digitalization of air cargo and the broader supply chain supported trade facilitation through time-savings and reduction of costs (which COVID-19 tends to increase). Stakeholders needed data culled from digital platforms to drive operational, as well as national, regional, and global trade policy decisions in a world where e-commerce was rapidly changing the marketplace and States were reviewing their positions in the global supply chain.

3.5 The Meeting was provided with an update on the development of multimodal standards for information exchange across the supply chain as part of the UN Development Account (UNDA) Transport and Trade Connectivity in the Age of Pandemics project, representing an integrated approach to transport policy, encompassing air cargo and mail supply chains. It was noted that the project had support from a diverse and growing group of stakeholders in the UN System, including UNECE and ICAO, and industry, including International Air Transport Association (IATA), The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), International Port Community Systems Association (IPSCA) and International Federation of Freight Forwarders (FIATA).

3.6 Pilot implementation by States would bring additional partners.

#### *Presentation by Kazakhstan*

3.7 Kazakhstan, as one of possible partners in this pilot project, provided an overview of their plans for using digitalisation in support of various needs. It was noted that CART requirements could easily be added into the programme by the creation of integration testing carried out on existing databases to big data engines. This has been examined to see how this could be done. The next steps include Kazakhstan’s systems architects assessing the final specifications.

## **4. Agenda item 3: Vaccination and testing certificates;**

#### *Presentation by ICAO*

4.1 ICAO provided information on Visible Digital Seals (VDS) for Travel Related Health Proofs. It was noted that ICAO seeks to provide specifications to achieve global interoperability among solutions – thereby assuring common performance and security standards. ICAO is not proposing a solution to replace existing tools. Technical specifications should enhance the tools, just as eMRTD specifications enhance the travel document landscape globally. The VDS-NC is not the primary medical vaccination document. This function stays within the health-related environment: vaccination certificates will be treated and governed as health documents. The VDS-NC is not intended to replace any national/ multilateral vaccination document.

*Presentation by Israel*

4.2 Israel shared their experience and updates on Vaccination verification and Green passes.

*Presentation by the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)*

4.3 The United States provided an update on the FAA COVID-19 response, including the Goal, Public Health Measures, Testing and Vaccination and Return to Full Capacity.

*Presentation by European Commission, DG-MOVE*

4.4 The European Commission provided an overview of the key aspects of the Commission Proposal on the Digital Green Certificate with a focus on facilitating the return to free movement in the European Union. This would put them in a position to influence the design of solutions developed in international forums in line with their values (i.e. non-discrimination, data protection, etc.). This solution should allow global interoperability and the Commission's experts were already coordinating closely with the WHO and ICAO to ensure global convergence.

*Presentation by IATA*

4.5 IATA presented an overview of their Travel Pass, which included an application providing a platform to manage and verify the secure flow of necessary testing or vaccine information among governments, airlines, laboratories and travellers. IATA urged States to:

- a) continue to assist IATA by providing timely updates relating to the Government entry and testing requirements, for IATA Global Health Registry (Timatic) be fully up to date;
- b) issue standard digital certificates for nationals, which can be verified by third parties;
- c) accept digital certificates for incoming travellers; and
- d) Gain confidence and efficiency by receiving required passenger data in advance of the passenger's arrival and verifying that data is genuine and unaltered.

**5. Agenda item 4: ICAO Global Dialogue on Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAGs)**

5.1 ICAO provided an update on the Global Aviation Dialogues on Long-Term Aspirational Goals (LTAG-GLAD). It was recalled that the 40th ICAO Assembly (2019) requested to explore the feasibility of a global long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation.

5.2 As part of the ICAO consultative process, the LTAG-GLADs aim to raise awareness and exchange input and views of Member States to facilitate the ICAO work on LTAG, with the following two objectives:

- a) Raise awareness on the ICAO work on the feasibility of a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation CO2 emissions reductions. – What is LTAG?
- b) Discuss the important considerations in ICAO's further work on LTAG. – How should ICAO LTAG work move forward?

5.3 The milestones ahead are:

- a) ICAO Stocktaking 2021 (Aug/Sep) to further take stock of the latest information on aviation in-sector CO2 reductions;
- b) States are encouraged to provide their State Action Plans to include the latest green innovations;
- c) CAEP LTAG-TG will deliver scenarios / analyses results to the CAEP/12 meeting in February 2022;

- d) Year 2022 – Council’s review of CAEP work, High-level Meeting, and possible LTAG recommendations to the 41st Session of the Assembly in 2022; and
- e) Discussions in 2022 may also involve the future role of CORSIA in light of possible LTAG recommendations.

## **6. Agenda item 5: Preparations for the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021)**

6.1 ICAO provided an update on preparations for the High-level Conference on COVID-19 (HLCC 2021) to be held 12 to 22 October 2021 that will be held in a virtual or hybrid setting, depending on the evolution of the situation. A broad range of issues will be covered relating to the COVID-19 pandemic response and aviation sector recovery, with an emphasis on safety and facilitation matters.

## **7. Conclusions and next meeting**

7.1 The Meeting was closed by the Chairman and ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Director, who thanked participants for their active contributions.

7.2 The next EUR/NAT DGCA teleconference would be on 29 September 2021, focusing on lessons learnt from the current crisis and on the path to recovery of civil aviation.

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## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

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

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**APPENDIX A — LIST OF PARTICIPANTS***(Paragraph 1.3 refers)***ALBANIA**

Bujar HAZIZAJ  
Edlira KRAJA

**ANDORRA**

Guillem SANTACREU  
MARTINEZ

**ARMENIA**

Tatevik REVAZYAN  
Armine DANIELYAN

**AZERBAIJAN**

Fariz ALIYEV

**BELARUS**

Artem Igorevich SIKORSKY

**CROATIA**

Dinko STANICIC

**CYPRUS**

Maria PSILOGENIS

**CZECH REPUBLIC**

Zdenek JELINEK

**DENMARK**

Lars Barsalej PEDERSEN

**FINLAND**

Matti TUPAMAKI

**FRANCE**

Louis TEODORO

**GEORGIA**

Levan KARANADZE

**GERMANY**

Matthias JEGLITZA  
Heinz DECKER

**GREECE**

Eleni-Andriani  
SAMPATAKOU  
George DRITSAKOS  
Nena SAMPATAKOU

**HUNGARY**

Emoke FANCSALI

**ICELAND**

Jon Gunnar JONSSON  
Kristin Helga  
MARKUSDOTTIR

**IRELAND**

Anthony MURPHY

**ISRAEL**

Joel FELDSCHUH  
Adam CUTLER  
Eli ALOOK

**ITALY**

Mark De LAURENTIIS

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Peter GRIFFITHS  
Zhanna SHEK

**LATVIA**

Maris GORODCOVS

**LITHUANIA**

Jurate PECIUKONYTE

**LUXEMBOURG**

Pierre JAEGER  
Linda MAZZOLA

**MOROCCO**

Otman Ait MADANI  
Mohammed KARARA  
Maria EDDARHRI  
Ihssane CHAKIR  
Nora OUSTANI  
Asmaa OSFOUR

**NETHERLANDS**

Richard OSSENDORP  
Petrouschka WERTHER  
Hans IJSSELSTIJN  
Ingeborg van GASTEREN

**POLAND**

Piotr SAMSON  
Katarzyna  
KOCHMANSKA-CZECH  
Robert PRZYBYLSKI

**PORTUGAL**

Luis Miguel Silva RIBEIRO  
Carla PINTO  
Jorge CASTANHO

**REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Octavian NICOLAESCU

**ROMANIA**

Nicolae STOICA  
Loredana ENACHEANU

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Alexey Anatolievich  
NOVGORODOV  
Elena GRACHEVA  
Maria ZABAVKA

**SERBIA**

Marijana SMILJANIC

**SLOVENIA**

Andrej PETELIN

**SPAIN**

Andres SANCHEZ

**SWEDEN**

Anne-Marie  
RAGNARSSON

**SWITZERLAND**

Urs HALDIMANN  
Katrin FORRER  
Laurent NOEL

**TUNISIA**

Yamina JLAIEL  
Issam BOUZID

**TURKEY**

Ozcan BASOGLU

**UKRAINE**

Danylo DAVYDOV  
Sergii KORSHUK  
Andrii SMYK

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Kirsten RIENSEMA  
Sarah HILL  
Tamara GOODWIN

**UNITED STATES**

Heidi AMES  
Jim SPILLANE  
Susan NORTHRUP  
Stacey HERISHEN-SMITH  
Benjamin TAYLOR  
Della DAVIS  
Sharon YUN  
Minh FAVILA  
Esta ROSENBERG  
Ian H. ROSS  
Michael DONNELLY  
Joe LANDART  
Joshua OTAIGBE

**UZBEKISTAN**

Tolib ULJAEV

**ACAO**

Hicham BENNANI  
Abdennebi MANAR

**EASA**

Frank STEFFENS  
Daniela DEFOSSAR

**ECAC**

Mark RODMELL

**EUROCONTROL**

Donal HANDLEY

**EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION**

Antoine TOULEMONT

**IAC**

Sergey IVASHOV  
Elena SKOMOROKHINA

**IATA**

Giancarlo BUONO

**ICAO SECRETARIAT****HEADQUARTERS**

Fang LIU  
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Cortney ROBINSON  
Christopher HORNEK  
Hatem OUESLATI  
Ignacio IGLESIA  
FIGUEROA

**ICAO MID**

Mohamed SMAOUI

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Denis GUINDON  
Elkhan NAHMADOV  
Abbas NIKNEJAD  
Arkadii MERKULOV  
Arnaud DESJARDIN  
Cornelia LUDORF  
Sarantis POULIMENAKOS  
Sven HALLE  
Ulas SAHIN  
Blandine FERRIER  
Leyla SULEYMANOV  
Carolyne OTTIENO  
Patricia CUFF

- END -