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ASSEMBLY — 37TH SESSION

TECHNICAL COMMISSION

Agenda Item 32 : Regional Safety Oversight Organizations (RSOs)

INITIATIVE ON CREATION OF A REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION

(Presented by Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Referring to the ICAO *Safety Oversight Manual, Part B — The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight System* (Doc 9734), the Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine took an initiative to create the Regional Safety Oversight Organization (RSOO) in the Black Sea–Caspian Region. By harmonizing rules and procedures that regulate civil aviation, States of the Black Sea–Caspian Region may increase the level of flight safety, improve compatibility of flight safety management systems, consolidate available resources and effectively use them for RSOO safety oversight. Currently, the RSOO initiative is evolving via further drafting of the international legal framework to ensure its future operation.

Action: The Assembly is invited to note the information on the initiative of the Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine to create an RSOO in the Black Sea–Caspian Region and the actions taken for its development.

<i>References:</i>	Doc 9734, <i>Safety Oversight Manual, Part B — The Establishment and Management of a Regional Safety Oversight System</i>
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¹ English and Russian versions provided by Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Results of the ICAO safety oversight audits emphasize that cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels is necessary to integrate available resources to increase the effectiveness of the safety oversight system.

1.2 Guidelines specified in ICAO, *Safety Oversight Manual*, Doc 9734, Part B, allow for estimating advantages to a group of States: in the extension of their safety oversight capability; in a more effective addressing of external factors and constraints; in saving resources while simultaneously achieving economies of scale in safety oversight by aeronautical authorities, and in productive sharing of human resources.

1.3 The European regional safety oversight system, established in the second part of the 20th century, included actions at the State level on aviation safety oversight and at international regional organizations – European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) and European Organization for Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL).

1.4 The establishment and operation of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) since 2004 has led to a relocation of the center of gravity of the safety oversight system to the European Union institutions.

1.5 The adoption of Regulation EC/216/2008 accelerated the process of transfer of the competency from the JAA to Azerbaijan and in fact led to the necessity of concluding bilateral working arrangements between the aeronautical authorities of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine and EASA.

2. INITIATIVE ON REGIONAL SAFETY OVERSIGHT ORGANIZATION CREATION

2.1 Independently having analyzed the consequences of transfer of the competency from JAA to EASA, termination of JAA arrangements and its impact on the non-EU/ECAC Member States, and having estimated available resources and respective aviation sector needs, Directors General of Civil Aviation of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine held a meeting in Yalta, Ukraine (6-10 August 2008) to discuss cooperation in the light of mentioned challenges.

2.2 As an outcome of this meeting, a Joint Declaration was signed that defined a coordinated position in view of the safety oversight system change at the Pan-European level. The intention to create an RSOO in the Black Sea–Caspian Region, by means of signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in future, was fixed.

2.3 To realize this intention, the International RSOO Task Force was created, comprising of the representatives from Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

2.4 The mentioned initiative was supported by ICAO, and the ICAO Secretariat defined a Focal point to support the RSOO creation. With assistance from ICAO, the MoC and its Annexes were amended to meet the requirements of ICAO Doc 9734, Part B.

2.5 The initiative towards the RSOO creation was also supported by EUROCONTROL, and with this direct support, the Concept Document for Regional Safety Oversight, and particularly the part relating to ATM has been elaborated.

2.6 During the years 2008-2010 several joint meetings of the Directors General and the International RSOO Task Force were held.

2.7 During the last meeting of Directors General of the Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Ukraine, which was held in December 2009, all parties reiterated their readiness for cooperation with such international organizations and structures as ECAC/EUROCONTROL, ICAO and with the European Commission, EASA and the Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC), if needed on the national level.

2.8 During the meeting, it was decided also to establish regional activity in the fields of ATM and SAFA since nothing prevents them from the joint cooperative activity in these areas. It was agreed that in the fields of operations, airworthiness and aerodromes, mutual cooperation will be carried out on the level of training, organization of joint meetings and technical assistance.

2.9 During the last meeting of the International RSOO Task Force, which was held at EUROCONTROL Headquarters on 26 May 2010, an MoC and its Annex 1 and Annex 3 were developed.

2.10 It was agreed to elaborate Annex 2 to the MoC via correspondence, i.e. the Concept Document for regional safety oversight, and to request EUROCONTROL to conduct the final study in the form of a skeleton Business Plan with the projected operating costs of the RSOO for the next 5 years and the estimated sources of financing.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 Currently, the approval and signing of the MoC and the means to undertake RSOO activities are in the negotiation process between the Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine.

3.2 Meanwhile, the Civil Aviation Administration of Azerbaijan reserved its right to participate in the RSOO pending completion of national formalities.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The Assembly is invited to note this information on the initiative of the Civil Aviation Authorities of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine to create a Regional Safety Oversight Organization in the Black Sea–Caspian Region and the actions taken for its development.