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## ICAO Council discusses Report on Fact Finding into Ryanair FR4978

For immediate release

**Montréal, 31 January 2022, updated 20:50 EST** – In the first meeting of its 225<sup>th</sup> Session today, ICAO Council member States considered the ICAO Secretariat's Report on the Fact Finding Investigation into the events surrounding the diversion of Ryanair flight FR4978 on 23 May 2021.

Also taking part in the discussions were official representatives of non-Council States considered to have a special interest in the proceedings namely, the Republic of Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and Ireland.

A point of convergence from States' discussions included the Council's appreciation to the ICAO fact finding investigation team for the exhaustive analysis undertaken, and the high quality of the report it produced.

The Council expressed concern at the gaps in information provided by Belarus and the inconsistencies contained in the evidence available at the time of the investigation in relation to crucial aspects of the factual reconstruction of the events, and highlighted that the bomb threat against FR4978 was deliberately false and had endangered the safety of an aircraft in flight.

The Council further recalled that communicating false information which endangers the safety of an aircraft is an offence under the Montreal Convention, and in this connection, strongly condemned such practices.

In light of some newly emerging information relating to the FR4978 events and timeline, the Council requested the ICAO investigation team to continue its work with a view to establishing the missing facts, including in connection with the related ongoing criminal and other investigations, and to report to it any further findings.

Additionally, the Council called upon all Member States and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to collaborate with the ICAO investigation, and requested the President of the Council to eventually forward the final Fact Finding Investigation Report to the United Nations Secretary-General.

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## Resources for Editors

### [The ICAO Council](#)

#### **Additional ICAO Contracting States participating in today's virtual meeting:**

Albania; Belgium; Belarus; Denmark; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland, Latvia; Lithuania; North Macedonia; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Serbia; Slovenia; Sweden; Ukraine.

#### **About ICAO**

A specialized agency of the United Nations, ICAO was created by governments in 1944 to support their diplomacy on international air transport matters. Since that time, countries have adopted over 12,000 standards and practices through ICAO which help to align their national regulations relevant to aviation safety, security, efficiency, capacity and environmental protection, enabling a truly global network to be realized. ICAO forums also provide opportunities for advice and advocacy to be shared with government decision-makers by industry groups, civil society NGOs, and other officially-recognized air transport stakeholders.

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