



COUNCIL — 223RD SESSION

SECOND MEETING

(VIRTUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 27 MAY 2021, AT 1000 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

OPEN MEETING

Incident involving Ryanair Flight FR4978 in Belarus airspace on 23 May 2021

1. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report presented by the Secretary General. In doing so, the Council agreed to waive rule 26 b) pertaining to the timeline requirement for the issuance of oral reports, since in this case the oral report had been issued less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
2. Following consideration, the Council by a majority decision:
 - a) welcomed the presence at this meeting of the Ministers of Transport of Ireland, Lithuania, and Poland, as well as the representatives of Belarus and took careful note of their contributions to the Council's deliberations;
 - b) expressed strong concern at the apparent forced diversion of Ryanair Flight FR4978, a commercial passenger aircraft flying in Belarus airspace on Sunday, 23 May 2021;
 - c) underlined the importance of establishing the facts of what happened and understanding whether there had been any breach by any ICAO Member State of international aviation law, including the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention) and its Annexes;
 - d) recalling Article 55 (e) of the Chicago Convention, decided to undertake a fact-finding investigation of this event, and in this connection, requested the Secretariat to prepare an interim report to the Council for a subsequent meeting of the current session, which would present the available facts and relevant legal instruments and identify any gaps in order to safeguard international civil aviation; and
 - e) called upon all ICAO Member States and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate with this fact-finding investigation in the interests of ensuring the safety and security of civil aviation and offered the assistance and expertise of ICAO in the pursuit of this endeavour.

Any other business

Next meeting

3. The Council took note that the next meeting of the current session would be convened to occur at 1430 hours on Monday, 7 June 2021.