

EASA Project in Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC APP)

(19/02/2020)

Project's Key facts: In December 2017 the European Union, through its Delegation in Brasilia, and more specifically FPI (Foreign Policy Instrument), signed a contract with EASA (European Aviation Safety Agency) dedicating 7 million euros for the implementation of a four-year project in order to promote "EU-Latin America Cooperation on Civil Aviation (EU-LAC)".

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to enhance the safety, political, economic and environmental partnership between Latin America and Europe in the domain of civil aviation.

The specific objectives are:

- to promote EU standards;
- to facilitate market access;
- to strengthen regulatory cooperation;
- to cooperate in the area of environment protection.

Central America: Support the implementation of the GASOS initiative by ICAO for ACSA to become a recognized Level 2 RSOO. The harmonization of the regulations among the countries is key to achieve this objective. This has been actively requested by the industry during the past years. Some of the regulations were approved by the COMITRAN in October 2018, now the project supports ACSA (and hence the States) with its implementation. Due to the limited resources and dates of applicability of the regulations, the MRCA OPS 1 was selected as a trial case for implementation. This process, led by ACSA and the States needs close coordination and cooperation from the various regional actors and the industry.

Mexico: a MoU was signed between the Mexican Federal Agency for Civil Aviation and EASA with mutual cooperation purposes. The project experts will provide support to analyze ways of cooperation in 2020.

South America: the support has covered a wide variety of areas among the partners (SRVSOP, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia) such as workshops focused on EASA DOA concept, SSP, Certification of Aerodromes, ATM, Drones, SAFA, among others. Support is requested from Industry and Air Navigation Service Providers to improve ATM interconnectivity among countries which is now one of the main challenges in the region. Besides the SRVSOP pushes to have stronger LARs (Latin American Regulations) that will benefit the industry, nevertheless the level of implementation differs from country to country.

CASSOS: the project drafted a study with some recommendations which would enable future support by the EU-LAC APP. Unfortunately there was no reaction from CASSOS until recently. Further support will be discussed with CASSOS during next Project's Management Board.