



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION - EUR/NAT REGIONS

2019 MEETING (EURNAT-DGCA/2019)

(Paris, France, 19 to 20 March 2019)

Agenda Item 5: ICAO Business Plan and EUR/NAT Operating Plan for 2020-2022, including priorities for the ICAO EUR/NAT regions

STATES IMPROVEMENT OF WORK AND WORK RESULTS IN THE AREA OF AVIATION SECURITY (AVSEC) AND FACILITATION (FAL) IN COOPERATION WITH THE ICAO EUR/NAT OFFICE

(Presented by Georgia)

Supported by: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

SUMMARY

This paper provides information on the outcome of the work done by the ICAO EUR/NAT office in the field of Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL) and the meaning for States. The Directors General will be informed on the positive developments with regards to a proper and harmonized implementation of Annex 17 and Annex 9 from the perspective of a State (States) and the clear need to raise the capacity of the Regional Office to maintain the quality of support to States.

1. Introduction

1.1 The ICAO European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Office, through its Regional Officer for Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL), is playing a key role in coordinating and supporting States in their understanding and implementation of ICAO Annex 17 and Annex 9 requirements. Various platforms for regional cooperation, communication and exchange of information were created in the recent years to support States in their endeavor to achieve compliance with ICAO security and facilitation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

1.2 Encouraged by the Regional Office, Georgia and other States engaged intensively in the ICAO regional AVSEC activities, have profited from cooperation with the ICAO EUR/NAT office and managed to establish a wide range of connections with States and regional stakeholders. Active involvement in the ICAO EUR/NAT AVSEC/FAL meetings, seminars, training activities, etc. helped to build close cooperation at regional level and facilitated the attainment of better expertise in the AVSEC/FAL area. The positive outcome was expressed in highly improved ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme – Continuous Monitoring (USAP-CMA) results showing 30% of progress or more compared to the prior results in the second USAP cycle and clearly indicating an effective implementation of Annex 17 and Annex 9 security related provisions.

2. Discussion

2.1 The largest platform for cooperation, coordination and exchange of information in the EUR/NAT region is the EUR/NAT AVSEC Group (ENAVSECG), established in 2012 upon request of States. ENAVSECG is the only aviation security meeting in the region that encompasses all 56 States in the area of accreditation of the EUR/NAT Office, as well as industry, regional and international organizations. The main objective of the Group is to offer a communication platform and to support all States in the implementation of relevant ICAO assembly resolutions and declarations on Aviation Security as well as commitments and guidelines given at Regional Conferences. It recognizes the work already performed by States and Regional Organizations, promoting its development with the target to harmonize the understanding and implementation of ICAO AVSEC related SARPs and to achieve a secure civil aviation system in the entire region.

2.2 ENAVSECG facilitates the exchange of information and sharing of best practices and achievements regarding AVSEC topics such as the development of new legislation, implementation of new measures and application of new policies and innovative programmes. The discussion topics of ENAVSECG comprise all areas of AVSEC and FAL (security related provisions) keeping pace with the evolving threat landscape and developing responses. The diversity of agenda items and participants grows year by year. Furthermore ENAVSECG is chaired by a team of three people representing the wide span of the EUR/NAT region (Georgia, Russian Federation and Switzerland) which also contributes to its credibility and success. Participation in ENAVSECG meetings proved to be fruitful and beneficial and provided a strong basis for communication, cooperation and for bilateral and multilateral projects between States, such as, vice versa capacity building and support in preparation for the ICAO USAP-CMA audits etc. An excellent example is the close cooperation between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia which has many facets and one concrete exercise was the preparation support provided by Georgia (which was already audited) to the two States in preparing for their ICAO USAP-CMA audits in 2017.

2.3 Furthermore the ICAO EUR/NAT regional office conducts seminars to support specific identified needs in parts of the EUR/NAT region such as the AVSEC/FAL seminar “EAST” established in 2013 and initially created for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, since 2017 covering also the Balkan States. It is an annual practical seminar focusing on specific topics based on developing AVSEC challenges and the needs of States. The seminar helps States to properly interpret new SARPs introduced via amendments to Annex 17 and Annex 9 and to exchange information on implementation steps. It is a vital tool to assist States with a better implementation of new and challenging SARPs.

2.4 The ICAO EUR/NAT Office provides training and capacity building activities via its 11 regional Aviation Security Training Centres (ASTC) in support of States to build their workforce capability needed to efficiently perform relevant aviation security duties. AVSEC experts from industry and the Georgian Civil Aviation Agency attend the training courses available at regional ASTCs on regular basis. This offers the opportunity to work closely together with participants from other States throughout the training course, build professional capacity and exchange on best practices adopted by States.

2.5 In the wake of the “No Country Left Behind Initiative” the EUR/NAT office conducts also targeted and tailored assistance to States in need or on request, which is an additional asset, e.g. in the preparation for an USAP-CMA audit or the rectification of deficiencies or just as help enabling a State to implement new requirements in a compliant manner.

2.6 After approval of the GASeP, the regional EUR/NAT GASeP conference was convened in Lisbon from 29 to 31 May 2018. Among other numerous participants, a large delegation of AVSEC experts from Georgia attended the conference to support the endorsement of two documents: the EUR/NAT GASeP Conference Declaration and the Regional Roadmap. Both stipulate the leadership of ICAO in strengthening Aviation Security and coordinating all efforts in implementing the GASeP in the framework of the regional roadmap and underline that the work to be carried out by States and stakeholders in the EUR/NAT regions shall be coordinated via ENAVSECG taking into account close cooperation with Regional entities.

2.7 During the second High Level Conference on Aviation Security (HLCAS/02) conducted from 29 to 30 November 2018 the role of regional offices was reflected in the conclusions of HLCAS/02 e.g. conclusion “b” in paragraph 3.3.1 States: *“Regional/inter-regional initiatives and mechanisms promote shared accountability for GAsEP objectives and priorities, and provide a useful platform for the coordination of relevant efforts. ICAO Regional Offices play an important role in assisting Member States to address common issues and challenges in implementing the GAsEP”*.

2.8 With regards to all above, Georgia welcomes and supports the work of the ICAO EUR/NAT regional office in the field of AVSEC/FAL. The regional office plays an important role in supporting States and growing their capacity by offering a wide range of capacity building and exchange opportunities. In the last 7 years States have gained a lot from participating in the EUR/NAT AVSEC/FAL activities and have improved their compliance with SARPs which is proven by very good audit results as well as individual success cases. The developments in the field of AVSEC/FAL in the past 7 years were challenging. The duties, scope of work and the work load for the ICAO EUR/NAT office has expanded. It is inevitable that in order to maintain the high level of performance and to continue to provide efficient support to States in all AVSEC/FAL areas the EUR/NAT office is in need for sufficient human resources. Georgia strongly encourages States to support further strengthening of the EUR/NAT office covering the biggest ICAO region for this office to be in line with the staffing of all other ICAO regional offices which are equipped with two Regional Officers since the decision was taken in the last Assembly.

2.9 Based on the foregoing, the following is proposed:

Draft EURNAT-DGCA Decision 2019/1 – States improvement of work and work results in the area of Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Facilitation (FAL) in cooperation with the ICAO EUR/NAT office

That to continue the excellent support to States in their endeavour to implement Annex 17 and Annex 9 in a harmonized manner and enable States to improve as necessary to be in the position to achieve the aspirational regional targets established in the regional GAsEP roadmap the EURNAT-DGCA:

- a) recognize the risk deriving from inadequate staffing of the Regional Office; and
- b) commit to support the proposal to strengthen the ICAO EUR/NAT regional office workforce in the area of AVSEC/FAL.

3. Action by the Meeting

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided;
- b) endorse the Decision above.

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