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Welcome to the ICAO Paris team



The European and North Atlantic Regional Office (EUR/NAT RO) is pleased to announce the arrival of Mrs. Teresa Antunes, Regional Officer, Aviation Security and Facilitation (AVSEC/FAL). Ms. Antunes has a legal background and worked for the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) for the past 12 years in the Facilitation and Security Directorate, where she was responsible for Facilitation. She was also a certified AVSEC auditor, at national and EU level.

Ms. Antunes represented ANAC in international fora and contributed to various international working groups, both in Security and Facilitation. She was a Member of the ICAO Facilitation Panel and chaired the ECAC Facilitation Working Group.

State Visits and interventions by the Regional Director

On 17 and 18 December 2024, the EUR/NAT Regional Director attended the 16th ECAC Forum and the 163rd Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of ECAC that took place in Paris, France.

On 20 December 2024, the EUR/NAT Regional Director welcomed a delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco, including Mr. Khalid Cherkaoui, Secretary General of the Ministry of Transport and Logistics. On this occasion, Morocco signed the ACT-SAF terms and conditions, becoming the first Maghreb State to join the ACT-SAF programme.



From 28 to 30 January 2025, the EUR/NAT Regional Director conducted a State Visit to Kyrgyzstan. He met with HE Mr. Adylbek Kasymaliev, Prime Minister (Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers) of Kyrgyzstan, and exchanged with him on key topics during my official visit this week. The Regional Director reiterated ICAO's commitment to support the safe and sustainable growth of aviation in this landlocked developing country, where aviation is going through important changes. He also had the opportunity to address safety, risk management, sustainability, efficiency, gender equality and NGAP in numerous meetings with the State Civil Aviation Agency (SCAA), two airlines, the aerodrome operator, the ANSP and the Kyrgyzstan Aviation Institute. Of particular importance was the State's signature of the ACTSAF programme terms and conditions, which reflects Kyrgyzstan's commitment to sustainability.



Implementation Support

The second meeting of the Uzbekistan Country Strategic Plan of Action (COSPA) Technical Cooperation Team (TCT)

The second meeting of the Uzbekistan COSPA Technical Cooperation Team (TCT) was held virtually on 15 January 2025. The TCT reviewed a prioritized plan for 2025 and agreed to enhance coordination for delivery of COSPA objectives. The COSPA Partners include:

- France, including the Direction Générale de l'Aviation Civile (DGAC) and the Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la Sécurité de l'Aviation Civile (BEA);
- The United States of America (USA), including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB);
- Airports Council International (ACI)/ACI Europe;
- International Air Transport Association (IATA);
- Airbus;
- Boeing; and
- The World Bank.



ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) preparation session

Further to the ICAO Electronic Bulletin 2025/2 dated 21 January 2025 regarding the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme Continuous Monitoring Approach (USOAP CMA) Activity Plan, the EUR/NAT RO organized a preparation session for the States concerned, held in Paris, France, on 28-29 January 2025.

The session, attended by 33 participants from France, Greece, Malta and The Netherlands, aimed to assist States in preparation for the upcoming USOAP CMA audits scheduled for 2025. The agenda included key aspects of the USOAP CMA, preparation actions to consider for a USOAP CMA audit, as well as guidance on selected USOAP "Priority Protocol Questions" (PPQs) in various areas.



Safety and Air Navigation

The 6th meeting of the European Aviation System Planning Group (EASPG/6)

The EASPG/6 took place in the premises of the ICAO Regional Office in Paris from 3 to 6 December 2024. The meeting, chaired by Mr. Levan Karanadze (Georgia), was opened by the EUR/NAT Regional Director. It reviewed the regional work programme in the areas of aviation safety and air navigation, and drafted a regional roadmap to facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the 14th Air Navigation Conference. The meeting agreed on key actions for the upcoming year, further promoting a collaborative, State-centered, risk-based and result-oriented approach. This meeting took place during a special moment for international civil aviation as EASPG/6 participants were invited to join the ICAO Paris Office's celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the signing of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The meeting was attended by 101 participants from 38 States and 9 international organizations. The EASPG/7 meeting will take place in Paris from 24 to 27 November 2025.



Thirty-first Meeting of the North Atlantic Safety Oversight Group (NAT SOG/31)

The thirty-first meeting of the North Atlantic Safety Oversight Group (NAT SOG/31), hosted by AirNav Ireland, took place in Ennis, Ireland, from 3 to 6 December 2024.

Chaired by Ms. Jennifer Kileo (United States), the meeting was supported the EUR/NAT RO, represented by Secretary Mr. Bryan DeCouto, with assistance from Ms. Leyla Suleymanova.



Representatives from Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and the North Atlantic Central Monitoring Agency (NAT CMA) participated in the meeting.



The meeting addressed several key topics related to safety oversight, including the outcomes from the 14th Air Navigation Conference, and reviewed reports from the NAT IMG/65, NAT CMA, NAT Scrutiny Group and NAT SOG Project Teams. The meeting also addressed GNSS interference reporting and monitoring, the implementation of Obstacle Clearance Removal (OCR), and received an update on safety oversight activities conducted by several NAT States.

Forty Fifth Meeting of the Language Proficiency Requirements Implementation Task Force (LPRI TF/45)

The Forty-Fifth meeting of the Language Proficiency Requirements Implementation Task Force (LPRI TF/45) was held in Paris from 11 to 12 December 2024. The meeting was held back to back with a workshop held on 13 December 2024, which was dedicated to the maintenance and dissemination of the EUR Document 046 “Guidance on the harmonized implementation of LPRs and its oversight”.

Chaired by Mrs. Inna Abdullayeva (Uzbekistan), the meeting was supported by the EUR/NAT RO, represented by Secretary Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos, with assistance from Mrs. Natalia Savvina.

The meeting was attended by 44 participants from 30 States and 6 Organizations, including EASA, IATA, EUROCONTROL, and ICAEA. As the LPRI TF is the only one existing in the ICAO regional structure, the meeting was also attended by participants/speakers from USA, Japan, China and Brazil.



The meeting addressed a number of key topics related to English language Proficiency matters, including on line testing, safety data analysis, native speakers and accent issues, and ground staff linguistic requirements. The TF action plan 2024-2027 was amended accordingly to include new capacity building activities, such as the inclusion of two workshops on ICAO EUR Doc 046 for Central and Eastern Europe)

New sub-regional project to help enhance the aircraft accident and serious incident investigation capabilities of Central Asian States

On 20 January 2025, following a year of preparation in close cooperation with CDI and ANB, the EUR/NAT RO launched a sub-regional project to assist Central Asian States (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) to enhance their capabilities for the investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents, including through the establishment and effective operation of a national independent investigation authority, making use of existing regional arrangements and organizations as needed. The primary objective of the project is to conduct a root cause analysis of the current situation and provide recommendations to assist in implementing an effective independent accident and serious incident investigation system in line with the related ICAO provisions.



Volcanic Ash Exercise (VOLCEX) Events

The 19th meeting of the Steering Group for volcanic ash exercises (VOLCEX/SG/19) was held in a hybrid format from 21 to 22 January 2025 at the EUR/NAT RO. The meeting was attended by 72 participants from 20 States, 2 Airlines, and 3 International Organizations. The objectives of the meetings were to:

- develop recommendations from the volcanic ash exercise conducted on 19 November 2024 called VOLCEX24; and
- consider these recommendations in the objectives of the volcanic ash exercise that will be conducted on November 2025 called VOLCEX25.

One significant achievement observed in VOLCEX24 was that no State that participated in the exercise closed their airspace, the fourth time since these exercises began over a decade and a half ago.

This demonstrates that States have adopted the Safety Risk Assessment (SRA) approach provided by operators, which is in accordance to the Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan for the EUR/NAT area.



Routinely conducting volcanic ash exercises is essential for improving the stakeholder's readiness for a real volcanic ash event.

The next exercise in November 2025 will simulate an Icelandic volcano eruption with the ash cloud expected to affect the North Atlantic and Western Europe.

One of the VOLCEX25 objectives will be testing the Dynamic Airborne Reroute Procedure (DARP) in oceanic airspace. Training Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) on the use of Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) loadable uplinks to reroute multiple aircraft in real time is a necessary component of DARP. This will help mitigate the potential for human error in the flight deck, reduce ATC workload, and ensure safer airspace.

In addition, the new Quantitative Volcanic Ash (QVA) information will be made available in VOLCEX25, which will allow stakeholders to familiarize themselves with it, though it will not be used operationally during the exercise.

Aviation Security and Facilitation

The EUR/NAT RO, in coordination with ATB, is working with the CAA of Azerbaijan in order to conduct a webinar on Assistance to Air Accident Victims and their Families for the benefit of the State.

Coordination is ongoing with ATB FAL Section, in preparing for the ICAO Facilitation Regional Forum that will take place from 3 to 4 March 2025 in Douala, Cameroon.



Coordination with ATB is also ongoing to prepare for the EUR/NAT RD's moderation of a panel on cargo security at the upcoming ICAO Global Cargo Summit, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, in April 2025.

Environmental Protection - LTAG



The EUR/NAT RO continued to support Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan with their first State Action Plans (SAP). Kazakhstan submitted its first SAP to ICAO in December 2024, becoming the 50th EUR/NAT State with a developed SAP.

The EUR/NAT RO participated in several coordination calls with the ICAO HQ on the upcoming meetings and activities related to ENV in 2025.

Coordination is ongoing with the State Action Plan (SAP) Focal Points to assist in submitting their updated SAPs to ICAO prior to the next ICAO Assembly. Additional support and guidance on SAPs was also provided to States at their requests. In particular, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan were assisted with their first SAP. Turkmenistan is currently reviewing its draft SAP which should be finalized soon. Kazakhstan submitted its first version of SAP to ICAO in December 2024 and is currently working on updating the SAP and quantify the mitigation measures selected.

Coordination is ongoing with ATB concerning SAF feasibilities studies to be initiated in 2025. Several calls were held with the European Union (EU) on the current ICAO ACT SAF Project with EU funding.

A coordination call was organized with the EBRD and HQ on the potential synergies to support States in the EUR/NAT area with the development of SAF.

In January 2025, Kyrgyzstan signed the ACT SAF terms and conditions, becoming the second Central Asian State to join the programme.

Gender Equality

ICAO EUR/NAT Webinar on Gender Equality

On 16 December, the EUR/NAT RO hosted a webinar on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Aviation.

Around 70 participants attended the webinar, which provided valuable insights from ICAO and its Gender Equality partners across the EUR/NAT area, including EUROCONTROL, International Transport Workers' Federation, CANSO and IFATCA. The webinar also highlighted the importance of mentoring for the advancement of gender equality in aviation.



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The EUR/NAT focal points for Gender Equality participated in the 2025 International Transport Forum (ITF) Annual Consultation on Gender and Transport, held on 27 January 2025 at the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) headquarters in Paris.

Since 2016, the ITF Annual Consultation on Gender and Transport has been a platform for the ITF and its stakeholders to exchange on how questions related to gender equality in transport can be integrated into the ITF Summit programme, as well as into other aspects of ITF work. The meeting also provided an opportunity for sharing good practices and insights regarding gender and transport more broadly.

Preparation is ongoing for a workshop on Gender Equality and Empowering Women in Aviation, to be held from 4 to 5 March 2025 in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The workshop aims to bring together stakeholders from the EUR/NAT area to share experiences and best practices on mentoring and other initiatives that empower women in aviation. The agenda will feature keynote speeches to inspire young women, interactive sessions on mentoring, and success stories from aviation organizations that highlight effective policies and practices that have advanced gender equality. It will also serve as an inspiring platform to mark the International Women's Day and reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing gender equality in aviation.

**GAT Training**

The EUR/NAT RO started planning GAT Training courses to be organized at the Regional Office. The intent is to organize 5 training courses covering various priority topics.

Celebrations of the 80th Anniversary of the Chicago Convention

On 4 December 2024, the ICAO Paris Office celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). This milestone was not just a celebration of ICAO's achievements but also a tribute to the visionaries who foresaw the transformative power of civil aviation. The celebrations featured speeches from representatives of ICAO, States and international organizations.



The EUR/ Regional Director opened the ceremony and reminded the audience that civil aviation has become an integral part of our world, connecting people, cultures, and economies. He highlighted the key role of ICAO and emphasized how aviation has facilitated international trade, tourism, and cultural exchange, contributing significantly to global economic growth and development. He also introduced the six strategic goals under the newly approved Strategic Plan of ICAO that will guide the organization through 2050.



The speakers highlighted and commended the organization's work that has been instrumental in fostering international cooperation and collaboration amongst Member States, international/regional organizations and industry stakeholders.



In addition, the EUR/NAT Regional Director represented ICAO in the ICAO80 celebrations organized by France and Spain respectively on 5 and 13 December 2025 and delivered key note addresses at both events,



Transformational objective

Developments concerning the renovations of the EUR/NAT RO premises

The first of the three major tenders, which is for “*Assistance à Maîtrise d’Ouvrage (AMO)*”, published in March 2024 resulted in the contract signature in October 2024 and the subsequent start of the activities. The AMO shall assist and advise EUR/NAT RO throughout the renovation project in all its decisions, actions, and procedures, as well as on the administrative, management, technical, legal and financial aspects.



The second major tender, which is for “*Maîtrise d’œuvre (MOE)*”, published on 26 November 2024, was closed on 21 January 2025 and the evaluations are now in process. The MOE will be tasked to prepare the solicitation documents with respect to the contract of the general contractor and will ensure the management and execution of the construction works throughout the duration of the renovation project.

Office arrangements

The Personnel Instruction 5.1.1 on Flexible Working Arrangements (FWAs) which entered into force on 1 July 2024 is duly applied in the EUR/NAT RO. All staff members are required to be physically present in the office on Mondays, unless they are on a mission, annual leave or sick leave.

