

2025 EUR/NAT DGCA Meeting

The 2025 EUR/NAT Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Meeting was held in Paris, France on 17 June 2025



The ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office (RO) welcomed about 100 senior aviation officials from 46 States, including four partner States (Canada, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States), to its annual Directors General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Meeting, held on 17 June 2025 in Paris. Representatives from States, international and regional organizations participated in the event.

The President of the ICAO Council, and ICAO Secretary General addressed the meeting, highlighting the significance of ICAO's strategic goals and priorities outlined in the recently adopted ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050.

The EUR/NAT Regional Director reiterated the primary objective of the EUR/NAT DGCA Meeting, which is to intensify regional efforts in strengthening information sharing, coordination, and cooperation on key strategic issues. He also highlighted the theme of this year's meeting, 'Advancing Aviation: People and Partnerships', which underscores the vital role of human capital and collaboration in shaping the future of aviation

Ms. Karin Puleo-Leodolter (Austria) was elected as the Chairperson with Ms. Anelia Marinova (Bulgaria) and Ms. Saltanat Tompiyeva (Kazakhstan) as Vice-Chairpersons. This marked the first time the

DGCA Meeting has been led by a fully female chair team.

Participants engaged in dynamic and forward-looking discussions across six key areas:

- Aviation Skills and Workforce Planning;
- Attracting and Empowering Women in Aviation;
- Advancing the Long-Term Aspirational Goal (LTAG);
- Strengthening Crisis Preparedness and Response; and
- Enhancing Implementation Support.

These discussions resulted in concrete actions and renewed commitments to deepen collaboration and engagement across the EUR/NAT area.



The next DGCA Meeting will take place in Italy, from 9 to 11 June 2026.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United Arab Emirates and ICAO



On 17 June 2026, Mr. Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director General of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) of the UAE and the Secretary General of ICAO signed a new Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding between ICAO and the UAE with the aim to enhance implementation support for the benefit of EUR/NAT States with priority needs.

Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Mr. Givi Divitashvili, Mr. Levan Karanadze, Councillor to the First Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Sakaeronavigatsia and Ms. Ekaterine Kokaia, Chargé d’Affaires, Minister Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Embassy of Georgia to France and Monaco; and Kazakhstan, Ms. Saltanat Tompiyeva, Chairwoman of the Civil Aviation Committee.

Meeting between the ICAO Secretary General and the ICAO Paris Staff



On 16 June 2025, the Secretary General of ICAO met with the EUR/NAT Regional Office staff. He provided an update on the organization’s transformation, emphasizing the need to bring ICAO towards the UN 2.0 vision for modernization across the UN system, including the specialized agencies, for greater impact.

He also briefed staff on ongoing discussions with ICAO Council regarding the next triennium budget. Mr. Salazar thanked the staff for their commitment.



Bilateral Meetings of ICAO Secretary General with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan

On 16 June 2025, bilateral meetings were held between the Secretary General of ICAO and State Officials from Azerbaijan, Mr. Nazim Ziyadv, Deputy Director General of the State Civil Aviation Agency (SCAA); Georgia with Ms. Mariam Kvrivishvili, Vice



Visit of the ICAO Leadership to the 55th International Paris Air Show and the Headquarters of Airbus

At the invitation of the French Government, and with support from the GIFAS, ICAO Council President, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano and Secretary General, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar attended the International Paris Air Show and held a series of high-level meetings in Paris and Toulouse, accompanied by the Representative of France to the ICAO Council, along with other Representatives of States to the ICAO Council, the Representative of the European Union to ICAO, and the EUR/NAT Regional Director.

France further reinforced its support for ICAO at the air show, as ICAO Council President, Mr. Salvatore Sciacchitano and Secretary General, Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar advanced discussions with French Transport Minister, Mr. Philippe Tabarot on measures to strengthen partnership in support of ICAO's strategic goals.

The ICAO President and Secretary General further highlighted the Organization's priorities at the air show's "Industry and Innovation Day," which was followed by a series of engagements with aviation industry leaders and participation in a panel discussion on artificial intelligence.

ICAO also concluded a new Training Fellowship Programme agreement with the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) at the event.

New ICAO-Airbus partnership supports innovation and sustainable aviation

Following their activities at the Paris Air Show, ICAO's leadership concluded a new Memorandum of Understanding with Airbus at the company's headquarters in Toulouse. This agreement establishes a framework for cooperation in key areas, including capacity development, technical support, sustainable

aviation fuels and ICAO's new Finvest Hub, along with initiatives aimed at fostering the next generation of aviation professionals and empowering women in aviation.



The ICAO leadership praised Airbus' steadfast commitment to sustainable aviation development and underscored the potential of his new partnership to enhance sustainability, drive innovation, and strengthen resilience across the aviation ecosystem, and make a lasting contribution to the future of air transport.

State Visits and interventions by the Regional Director

From 12 to 13 June 2025, the EUR/NAT Regional Director represented ICAO at the Air Law Conference organized in Rome, Italy under the theme 'Smart skies, legal horizons – the developing landscape of aviation regulators'. He participated in a panel discussion entitled 'Addressing today's challenges and preparing for the future', alongside an expert from EASA. In his presentation and interventions, the Regional Director highlighted ICAO's vision, mission, strategic objectives and key priorities, drawing from the recently adopted ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050. In addition, the Regional Director held a meeting with senior management from ENAC, Italy's Civil Aviation Authority.

On 26 June 2025, the EUR/NAT Regional Director attended the 63rd Session of the Provisional Council of EUROCONTROL in Brussels, Belgium and held side meetings with European aviation leaders.



From 27 to 29 June 2025, the EUR/NAT Regional Director represented ICAO at the Global Transport Connectivity Forum (GTCF) 2025 that took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, where he participated in a panel alongside the Minister of Transport of Zambia and the President of the Board of Directors of Pegasus Airlines.



Implementation Support

ICAO International Air Law Training Course



The ICAO International Air Law training course was held at the EUR/NAT RO from 23 to 27 June 2025. The workshop was attended by 13 participants from 7 States.

Safety and Air Navigation

Civil Military Aviation Summit

On 12 June 2025, the EUR/NAT Deputy Director, Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov, represented ICAO at the Civil-Military

Aviation Summit organized in cooperation between EUROCONTROL and ICAO, and held in Brussels, Belgium. The event, which brought together senior civil and military aviation stakeholders, focused on strengthening cooperation in air traffic management (ATM) to address the evolving airspace and space security challenges.



Amid shifting geopolitical dynamics and increased defense activity, participants assessed the effectiveness of current civil-military coordination mechanisms, drew lessons from recent crises, and examined the readiness to handle future demands. Special attention was given to the operational impact of military airspace usage and the need for enhanced flexibility and resilience in shared airspace governance.

The summit also explored key themes such as cross-border military coordination, modernizing airspace design for defense needs, and improving collaboration in space security. The dialogue reinforced the importance of collective action and regional coordination to safeguard the safety and security of operations. More details on the event are available at: <https://www.eurocontrol.int/event/2025-civil-military-aviation-summit>

Webinar on Aerodrome Operations and Safety Oversight

A follow-up Webinar entitled "Aerodrome Operations and Safety Oversight" was organized on 24 June 2025 by the ICAO EUR/NAT RO in collaboration with Airbus. It addressed the progress made by EUR/NAT States in implementing the new Pavement Rating System and the Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) under the USOAP-CMA. The webinar was also an opportunity to discuss challenges faced by these States in respect of aerodrome safety oversight and to reflect on possible avenues to address these challenges.



Webinar on FF-ICE (Flight and Flow information for a collaborative environment)

A webinar on FF-ICE was conducted by the EUROCONTROL Learning Centre, in coordination with the EUR/NAT RO. The webinar invitation was extended to all EUR/NAT States. The session provided details on the ICAO FF-ICE concept as well as the Network Manager (NM) implementation plans for the ECAC area.

In addition, the Sixth meeting of the EASPG PCG (European Aviation System Planning Group – Programme Coordination Group) agreed on the way forward for the ICAO EUR FF-ICE Task Force. This Task Force will be working closely with the NM FPFDE SG (Flight Plan and Flight Data Evolution sub group) to ensure harmonized implementation of FF-ICE throughout the entire ICAO EUR Region.

45th Meeting of the ICAO EUR Data Management Group (DMG/45)

The 45th meeting of the ICAO EUR Data Management Group (DMG/45) was held in Toulouse, France from 11 to 13 June 2025 at the Météo-France Headquarters.



The meeting addressed technical and coordination issues essential for effectively managing MET OPMET data in the region. A primary focus was on implementing and coordinating IWXXM. The group reviewed the current status across the EUR Region, discussed ongoing support to States, especially regarding translation services

and explored further integration with the SADIS system. Members also provided updates on global extension repositories, data quality concerns, and proposed naming conventions to enhance system consistency standardization.

61st Meeting of the North Atlantic Systems Planning Group (NAT SPG)



The 61st NAT SPG Meeting (NAT SPG/61) was held in Paris, France from 24 to 27 June 2025. The main focus of the meeting was on priority areas, including GNSS radio frequency interference (RFI) mitigation and monitoring, FF-ICE planning and coordination in close cooperation with the EUR FF-ICE Task Force, and the integration of new entrants into NAT.



The NAT annual safety report was finalized and is now available, providing key insights supported by the diligent work of the NAT Scrutiny Group, which analyzed aviation occurrences, and the Mathematicians Working Group, which developed up-to-date risk estimates. This work remains fundamental to guiding safety initiatives across the NAT region.

In response to the growing threat of GNSS interference, new mitigation actions are under discussion. These will be crucial to ensure resilience in our navigation systems. Furthermore, the topic of new entrants continues to evolve, with active engagement through workshops and coordination efforts, particularly with the EUR sub-orbital transport operations (STO) Project Team, to develop a cohesive regional approach.



Preparations are well underway for the upcoming space weather exercises in the NAT region, which will help validate procedures and readiness in the face of potential disruptions. In parallel, comprehensive review and enhancement of the NAT crisis response processes has been completed.

The implementation of the Oceanic Clearance Removal (OCR) remains on track, with continuous safety performance monitoring and mitigation strategies being applied by both ANSPs and States. Additionally, recent NAT location of aircraft in distress repository (LADR) exercises have been completed, further strengthening our regional coordination and operational capabilities.

Significant efforts are ongoing to improve communication services, with a forward-looking perspective that includes the potential of space-based VHF and other innovations aimed at enhancing system robustness and efficiency.

Crisis Response Coordination

The EUR/NAT RO participated in meetings with experts from the ICAO MID RO and ICAO Headquarters with impacted ANSPs and surrounding CAAs concerning the conflict between Israel and Iran. The EUR/NAT RO contributed to the exchanges, which focused on crisis response measures implemented by States to ensure the safe and efficient use of airspace during periods of heightened regional tension.

Aviation Security & Facilitation

The 12th meeting of the EUR/NAT Aviation Security Group (ENAVSECG) was held in Paris, France from 3 to 6 June 2025.

The Meeting agreed to broaden the scope of group to include Facilitation (FAL) topics, and agreed to rename the group as the

EUR/NAT Aviation Security and Facilitation Group (ENAVSECFALG).

Regarding aviation security, key topics were discussed, including training and certification of aviation security personnel, challenges posed by emerging technologies; implementation of security technologies; cargo and mail security; cybersecurity measures; operations in or near conflict zones; management of unruly passenger incidents; harmonization of auditors' interpretations of regulatory requirements; mitigation of MANPADS and comparable weapon threats; and security risks and countermeasures for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).



The facilitation agenda items included the implementation of national facilitation programmes and committees, priorities for the next ICAO Facilitation Panel and assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

117th EU Stakeholders Advisory Group on Aviation Security (SAGAS)

The EUR/NAT RO participated in the 117th meeting of the EU Stakeholders Advisory Group on Aviation Security (SAGAS) held in Brussels, Belgium on 19 June 2025 and provided updates on the latest ICAO AVSEC and FAL global and regional developments.



The meeting discussed the latest policy initiatives, including recent legislative amendments and the EU Aviation Security Strategy. The European Commission briefed the participants on the outcomes of the latest AVSEC Regulatory Committee meeting and recent inspection activities.

Transformational objective

Renovation works

The EUR/NAT RO building renovation project is progressing as planned. Since October 2024, the Assistance à Maîtrise d'Ouvrage (AMO) has been providing essential support and guidance to the EUR/NAT RO, focusing on the project's administrative, management, technical, legal, and financial aspects.

The second major tender, for the “Maîtrise d'Oeuvre (MOE)” contract, resulted in the contract signature on 22 May 2025 and the subsequent start of the MOE's activities. The selected MOE is responsible for preparing the solicitation documents for the general contractor's contract and overseeing the management and execution of the construction works throughout the renovation.

The 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee, gathering representatives from France and ICAO, was held on 23 June 2025.

Additionally, the EUR/NAT RO is making significant strides in coordinating the rental of office space at one of the UNESCO's Paris sites to accommodate staff during the renovation period.

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.

Environmental Protection – LTAG

The EUR/NAT RO organized an ACT-CORSIA virtual meeting for 9 EUR/NAT States, with support from Germany. The main focus of this meeting was the reporting requirements relating to CO2 emissions, as well as CORSIA eligible fuels and CORSIA eligible emissions units. The EUR/NAT RO will organize another ACT CORSIA webinar in September 2025, to focus on the role of the States' CORSIA Focal Points, which will include the calculation of the offsetting requirements for Aeroplane Operators.

The EUR/NAT RO continues to support Turkmenistan and Tunisia with the development of their first State Action Plan (SAP) and Kazakhstan with their SAP's update to include additional and quantified information on the environmental benefits expected from the mitigation measures selected.

The EUR/NAT RO is supporting the Focal Point of Algeria with Assistance, Capacity Building and Training for Sustainable Aviation Fuels (ACT SAF) and the update of their SAP to include SAF.

The EUR/NAT RO initiated discussions with ACAO and the ICAO MID Office to host an interregional EUR-NAT/MID event on SAF.

Coordination with the European Union, EASA, the EBRD and ICAO/ATB is ongoing regarding the current ACT SAF Project and the SAF feasibility studies to be developed thanks to EU funding.



Farewell to Sarantis Poulimenakos



After 15 years of dedicated service at the ICAO EUR/NAT Regional Office, Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos, Regional Officer for Air Navigation Systems Implementation, is retiring and returning to his home country, Greece. Throughout his tenure, Sarantis played a key role in the Regional Office supporting the implementation of the CAPSCA programme, language proficiency requirements, and technical assistance activities across the EUR/NAT area. We extend our sincere thanks and warm wishes to Sarantis for a well-deserved retirement.

