



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**  
A United Nations Specialized Agency

# ICAO EUR SAR TASK FORCE - REPORT -

ICAO EUR/APAC SAR Workshop 2024  
Baku, Azerbaijan, 2-4 October 2024

Nikola Sarancic, Head of RCC Belgrade, Serbia

Chair of the ICAO EURSAR/TF



**CIVIL AVIATION  
DIRECTORATE  
OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF SERBIA**

# ICAO EUR SAR TASK FORCE - HISTORY

1<sup>ST</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE was established in 2014 by EANPG;  
Terms of Reference (TOR):

**The Objective** was to promote the enhancement and improvement of SAR facilities and services within the EUR Region and adjacent regions, in accordance with:

- a) Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and
- b) the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR).

Tasks:

- a) Review the current status of SAR preparedness of EUR Region States;
- b) Review State SAR Arrangements with neighbouring States for SAR coordination;
- c) Monitor outcomes from JWG, other ICAO Regions SAR group;
- d) Analyse contingency procedures in use in other ICAO regions
- e) Identify areas where SAR planning and preparedness require improvement
- f) Make recommendations for improvement of SAR systems



# ICAO EUR SAR TASK FORCE - HISTORY

1<sup>ST</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE was established 2014 by EANPG;

The outcome of the work of 1<sup>st</sup> EUR SAR TF:

- a) several meetings (telecons and in person) in 2015, 2016, and 2017;
- b) Publishing of EUR SAR Plan (Doc. 039) in October 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> edition);

The scope of the Plan is the identification of:

- • the current status of SAR preparedness of EUR Region States and State SAR arrangements;
  - • recommendations for SAR planning and preparedness enhancements, in terms of compliance with Convention on International Civil Aviation, Annex 12, IAMSAR Manual guidance, and accepted best international practice; and
  - • recommendations to IMO for harmonised and interoperable delivery of both aeronautical and maritime SAR services
- c) Current situation in EUR region, Performance improvement plan, SAR Capability Matrix table, SAREX Work plan, SAR agreements, etc.
  - d) 1<sup>st</sup> EUR SAR TF completed their work in 2017.



# ICAO EUR SAR TASK FORCE - TODAY

2<sup>nd</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE was established in 2019 by EASPG  
(EASPG Decision 1/4)

Adopted Terms of Reference (TOR) by EASPG/01.

**The Objective** was to promote the enhancement and improvement of SAR facilities and services within the EUR Region and adjacent regions, in accordance with:

- a) Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and
- b) the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR).

The EURSAR/TF was expected to deliver within two years:

- a) a Standardized Training Program (STP) for the Search and Rescue (SAR) Inspectorate Staff;
- b) a Specific Chapter for Inspector's Handbook to cover Standardized Inspection Procedures for SAR Inspectorate Staff; and
- c) a Guidance Material (GM) for the implementation and monitoring of PSCS and promote the enhancement and improvement of Regional SAR capability of establishment for enhancement of SAR capability within the EUR Region.

The EUR SAR TF report to EASPG PCG.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- ICAO sent the State Letter (SL 19-0532) for Nominations of representative(s) for ICAO EUR SAR/TF, in December 2019;
- The membership of the EURSAR/TF is open to the EUR States and administrations that have the responsibility for the provision of SAR services and facilities within the EUR Region, SAR-related international organizations, IMO, and ICAO;
- To meet its objectives, TF had several tasks:
  - Standardized Training Program (STP)
  - Specific Chapter for Inspector's Handbook
  - Guidance Material (GM) for the implementation and monitoring of PSCS
- Meetings started in April 2020 by Telecons;
- It was established two subgroups:
  - Subgroup A deals with the SAR Inspector's tasks STP and Handbook (Chaired by Georgia, Mr. Davit Lomadze), and
  - Subgroup B deals with GM for the implementation and monitoring of PSCS, (Chaired by Italy, Col. Claudio Castellano )



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

In the period April 2020 – November 2021, the EUR SAR TF:

- 10 plenary meetings were organized in 2020 & 2021 (all telecons) plus meetings of subgroups A and B – a total of 20+;
- Participating States in the work of EUR SAR/TF: around 30 states from the EUR Region of the 56 States including NAT;
- Participating International Organizations and groups in the work of EUR SAR/TF:
  - ICAO;
  - IMO;
  - Cospas-Sarsat;
  - IFALDA;
  - IFALPA;
  - EUROCONTROL; and
  - EC.



# 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

In the period April 2020 – November 2021, was organized 10 sessions of the EUR SAR TF.

All three tasks of ToR were completed, as EUR SAR TF provided drafts for the EASPG on:

1. STP for SAR Inspectorate Staff,
2. SAR Inspectors Handbook, and
3. GM for EUR SAR Plan;
4. Amendments to the EUR SAR Plan (Doc. 039)



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

In the period April 2020 – November 2021, during 10 sessions of the EUR SAR TF:  
Additional necessary SAR information/topics have been disseminated to the members of EURSAR/TF:

- SAR Webinars (ICAO, ECTL, EC),
- MCCs by FMCC,
- SAR training and SAR Plan by SAR International,
- SAR in Covid-19 with equipment by JRCC LCA,
- SAR Activities in other ICAO Regions (MID, WACAF, SAM, NACC, APAC),
- ICAO GADSS,
- ICAO/IMO JWG on SAR,
- SAR Funding,
- SAR Galileo,
- Regional SAR Initiatives (RASARAC),
- SAREXs and SAR Training by JRCC Larnaca, Poland..., and
- Procedures for Amending SAR Docs, etc.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- According to the WP and the Report provided by ICAO EUR SAR/TF, in December 2021, EASPG/03 made several decisions:
  - a) D.3/7 Proposal for Amendment (PFA) to ICAO EUR Doc 039 – EUR Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan;
  - b) D.3/8 EUR Training Program for Search and Rescue Inspectorate Staff that EUR/NAT publish as EUR Doc 043;
  - c) D.3/9 EUR SAR Inspector’s Handbook t that EUR/NAT publish as EUR Doc 044;
  - d) D.3/10 Guidance Material for the Implementation and Monitoring of Preferred SAR Capability Specifications (PSCS) that EUR/NAT publish as EUR Doc 045;

As a result of this work, all the tasks included in the Terms of Reference for the second meeting of the ICAO EUR SAR TF **were successfully completed.**

However, the need to promote the enhancement of SAR facilities and services within the EUR Region and adjacent regions, in accordance with Annex 12 and the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR) is still present.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- According to the WP and the Report provided by ICAO EUR SAR/TF, and the need to promote the enhancement of SAR facilities and services within the EUR Region and adjacent regions, in December 2021, EASPG/03 made also the decision on:
  - a) D.3/11 Update of the EUR Search and Rescue Task Force (SAR TF) Terms of Reference (ToR);

The EASPG/01 agreed that, while the current tasks of the EUR SAR TF were successfully completed, the SAR TF should continue its work to focus on the following:

- a) Support the implementation of EUR SAR Documents, in accordance with the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), EUR Regional Aviation Safety Plan (RASP), and the EUR Air Navigation Plan (EUR eANP) (Doc 7754);
- b) Share global SAR information among EUR States and other stakeholders;
- c) Promote the strengthening of SAR safety oversight capabilities;
- d) Propose amendments to EUR SAR documents;
- e) Promote SAR training activities and exercises.



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- The 11<sup>th</sup> ICAO EUR Search and Rescue Task Force meeting took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 36 participants from 15 ICAO EUR States and the EUROCAE Search and Rescue Program met to discuss the current state of search and rescue operations in the region.
- The discussion focused on the following topics:
  - EUR Search and Rescue Operations
  - Review of the ICAO EUR Search and Rescue Manual
  - Update on the ICAO EUR Search and Rescue Manual (19-05)
  - Sharing of current search and rescue operations and development projects



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- According to the WP and the Report provided by ICAO EUR SAR/TF, in December 2023, EASPG/04 made several decisions and conclusions regarding SAR in the EUR region:
  - a) D.4/5 Proposal for Amendment (PfA) to ICAO EUR Doc 039 – EUR Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan – 4ed EUR SAR Plan – EUR Doc 039 published;
  - b) D.4/6 Update of the SAR Performance Indicators of EUR States;
  - c) C.4/8 Survey on the Readiness of EUR States for Autonomous Distress Tracking
  - d) C.4/9 EUR SAR Workshop and Exercises



# 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- 12<sup>th</sup> m
- Larna
- More
- Agenc
- a)
- m
- b)
- O
- c)
- R
- d)
- a) EUR SAR Plan amendments

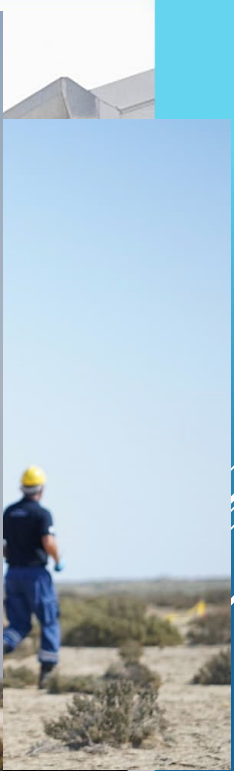


## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAO EUR SAR TF, Agenda (cont.) b) Discussion on the Implementation of published EUR SAR Documents 039,043, 044, 045
  - Outcomes of the IAA SAR Workshop on SAR Oversight held in Dublin in 2022, and Update on Irish Aviation Authority Oversight of SAR activities;
  - Future Perspectives on Civil-Military Cooperation, outcome of the ICAO/EUROCONTROL civil-military summit;
  - Status of the Cospas-Sarsat Programme;
  - GADSS, the ELT(DT), and A Model/Template Letter for communication with SAR Authorities;
  - Work of the APAC SAR WG (Challenges);
  - ICAO/IMO JWG on SAR: Report from the 29th ICAO/IMO JWG on SAR;
  - SAR training update on the ICAO course development with JAA TO;
  - Regional SAR Initiatives (RASARAC updates);
  - Further analysis of the SAR system in EUR; and
  - AOB (SAREX's, National SAR systems, Safety SAR information).



# RESCUE TASK FORCE



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- According to the WP and the Report provided by ICAO EUR SAR/TF, in December 2023, the EASPG/5 made several decisions and conclusions regarding SAR in the EUR region:
  - a) C.5/5 Readiness for Autonomous Distress Tracking (ATD) Implementation
  - b) D.5/11 Proposal for Amendment (PfA) to ICAO EUR Doc 039 – EUR Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan – 5<sup>th</sup> ed EUR SAR Plan – EUR Doc 039 published;
  - c) D.5/12 Update the EUR SAR TF Terms of Reference (ToR);
  - d) C.5/6 Measures to Enhance Coordination between SAR SPOCs and COSPAS-SARSAT MCCs
  - e) D.5/13 Analyse the SAR System and SAR System Oversight in the EUR/NAT Regions



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ICAO EUR SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

- 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICAO EUR SAR TF was held (EUR SAR TF/13) was held as a Teleconference, on 11 March 2024
- More than 35 participants from 18 states from EUR region and 3 international organizations (including C/S and Eurocontrol).
- Agenda included:
  - ICAO updates about SAR activities in the EUR region;
  - ICAO SL 24-0092. TEC, sent on 4th of March – Follow-up on EASPG Decision 5/13 - Analyse the SAR System and SAR System Oversight in the EUR/NAT Regions,
  - Establishing of Workstream C of EUR SAR TF;
  - AOB





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

NIKOLA SARANCIC

Head of RCC Belgrade, Serbia and Chair of ICAO EUR SAR/TF

email: [nsarancic@cad.gov.rs](mailto:nsarancic@cad.gov.rs)

