



C-DEC 223/9
5/7/21

COUNCIL — 223RD SESSION

NINTH MEETING

(VIRTUAL MEETING ON MONDAY, 21 JUNE 2021, AT 1430 HOURS)

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

OPEN MEETING

Proposal for amendment of the *Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region*, concerning the establishment of a Doha Flight Information Region (FIR)/Search and Rescue Region (SRR)

1. The Council resumed (C223/8) consideration of this item on the basis of C-WP/15198 which presented a proposal for amendment of the *Air Navigation Plan — Middle East Region* (Doc 9708), concerning the establishment of a Doha flight information region (FIR) and search and rescue region (SRR). The Council also had for consideration C-WP/15225, presented by the State of Qatar, which outlined key aspects of the proposed amendment.
2. Following consideration, the Council:
 - a) acknowledged that the Kingdom of Bahrain had provided safe and efficient air navigation services over several decades in the Middle East region;
 - b) noted the intention of Qatar to withdraw from the current arrangement whereby it has delegated to Bahrain the provision of air navigation services over its sovereign territory in accordance with paragraphs 2.1.1 of Annex 11 to the Chicago Convention;
 - c) acknowledged the right of Qatar to request the establishment of a Doha FIR/SRR over its sovereign territory and contiguous airspace consistent with Article 1 of the Chicago Convention and in accordance with Assembly Resolution A40-4, Appendix G;
 - d) acknowledged that the proposal of Qatar as outlined in C-WP 15225 to amend the *Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region* in order to establish a Doha Flight Information Region (FIR) and Search and Rescue Region (SRR), has the objective to support the development of air transport in the region and in particular in Qatar;
 - e) acknowledged the report of the Air Navigation Commission as contained in C-WP15198;
 - f) emphasized that amendments of regional air navigation plans depend upon good relations, collaboration and mutual respect between States and that these elements are fundamental to ensuring seamless services with a high level of safety and quality;

- g) agreed in principle with the establishment of a Doha FIR/SRR drawing on Qatar's proposal (Serial No. MID ANP-I 20/01 –ATM/SAR), which would include Qatar's sovereign airspace and, to optimize safety and efficiency of the regional airspace, other contiguous airspace over the high seas; and
- h) invited Bahrain and Qatar, as well as surrounding States with an interest in this matter, to discuss cooperatively under the auspices of the President of the Council, to agree on appropriate technical arrangements for the implementation of the Doha FIR/SRR, and to report the outcome of these discussions to the Council at its 224th Session for approval of the amendment of the Air Navigation Plan – Middle East Region.

Progress achieved by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (RHCC)

3. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report presented by the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (RHCC), as well as an update presented by the Representative of Canada on behalf of the Host State.

4. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) took note of the information presented by the RHCC, including in relation to the status of issues under consideration by the Committee;
- b) expressed appreciation to the Chairperson of the RHCC for all her strenuous efforts and the dedication that she had displayed in this role over the past year; and
- c) also expressed appreciation to the Host State for the ongoing assistance, support and cooperation, that had been proffered to the Organization and the diplomatic community since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and welcomed the commitment to provide further clarification regarding the administration of vaccination programme in Canada and Québec, including in relation to the issuance of vaccination certificates, in due course.

ICAO Vendor Sanction Policy

5. The Council resumed (C223/7) consideration of this item on the basis of C-WP/15222, a joint oral thereon from the Implementation Strategy and Planning Group (ISPG) and the Working Group on Governance and Efficiency (WGGE), and an e-mail message from the Chairperson of the Small Group on the ICAO Ethics Framework Review (SGE), which had been circulated on 17 June 2021.

6. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) recalled the decisions it had taken during the Seventh Meeting of the current session in which it had considered the proposed amendments to the Vendor Sanction Policy and decided to refer these to the SGE for review (C-DEC 223/7 refers);
- b) took note that one of the amendments to the Policy, included a proposal to outsource to the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) the receipt, preliminary review and investigation of allegations of proscribed practices by a vendor, and that in this connection, the SGE had found no reason to object to this change;
- c) approved the Vendor Sanction Policy as amended; and

- d) requested the Secretariat, as part of the negotiations on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ICAO and the OIOS, to ensure that the element referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph b), be incorporated into the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between ICAO and the OIOS.

Progress report on the implementation of the CART Report recommendations

7. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report presented by the Secretary General, which provided an overview of the Secretariat's activities to support the implementation of the recommendations and guidance contained in the report presented from the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART).

8. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive information provided and for the broad range of activities and initiatives undertaken by the Organization;
- b) took note of the implementation support activities related to implementation packages (i-Packs), safety operational measures, the Collaborative Arrangements for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA), facilitation, economic and financial measures, and resource mobilization efforts; and
- c) further took note of coordination, monitoring and reporting activities being undertaken with other stakeholders, including information provided by Member States on the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Implementation Centre (CRRIC), and requested the Secretariat to continue to keep the Council apprised of developments in this regard.

Report on reprioritizing activities in the 2021 Operating Plans

9. The Council considered this item on the basis of C-WP/15184. The Council also had for consideration a joint oral report thereon from the Implementation Strategy and Planning Group (ISPG) and the Working Group on Governance and Efficiency (WGGE).

10. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) took note of the actions taken by the Secretariat to reprioritize activities currently reflected in the Operational Plans as “new”, “reduced”, “postponed”, or “cancelled”; and
- b) requested the Secretariat to continue to apprise the Council of any developments in this regard and to propose improvements in the next iteration of the Business Plan 2023-2025, to be presented at the 224th Session in which the identified issues in the oral report by WGGE and ISPG would be addressed.

Report on the outcome of the informal meeting with the Air Crash Victims Families Federation International

11. The Council considered this item on the basis of an oral report presented by the President of the Council, which provided a summary of the exchange with Air Crash Victims' Families' Federation

International (ACVFFI) during the informal meeting held on 10 May 2021, and the follow-up actions to be undertaken by ICAO.

12. Following consideration, the Council:

- a) expressed appreciation to the representatives of ACVFFI for the comprehensive information shared with Council Representatives during the recent informal meeting concerning the provision of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families, and took note that a number of issues and proposals that had already been raised and presented at previous Assembly sessions remained pending;
- b) further noted that some of the actions requested by ACVFFI were to be discussed by the twelfth meeting of the Facilitation Panel (FALP/12) to be held in July 2021, and in this regard, requested that a report on the outcomes of the FALP/12 discussion on these items be submitted to the Air Transport Committee during the 224th Session;
- c) emphasized the need to support Member States' preparedness to adequately respond in such circumstances in accordance with ICAO policies and SARPs, as applicable;
- d) agreed with the ACVFFI's proposal to designate an international day commemorating air crash victims and their families, on the understanding that the Secretariat would undertake consultations with the ACVFFI and FALP members in order to identify the most suitable day for this purpose, while at the same time also noting that such a day would provide an invaluable opportunity to underscore the ongoing efforts of ICAO and its Member States and stakeholders to maintain and enhance the high level of aviation safety; and
- e) affirmed its desire to continue to engage with ACVFFI through both formal and informal meetings, in the future.

Any other business

Appointment of new CAEP Members and Observers

13. In relation to the e-mail message from the President of the Council dated 8 June 2021, the Council noted that in accordance with the relevant provisions of the CAEP Directives, Ms. Linda van Wamelen-Sibbes was appointed as an Alternate Member representing the Netherlands on the CAEP, with effect from 22 June 2021.

Additional meeting of the current session

14. It was noted that an additional meeting of the current session would be scheduled on Monday, 28 June 2021, in order to consider the interim report into the incident involving Ryanair Flight FR4978 in Belarus airspace on 23 May 2021.