



**WORKING PAPER**

**ICAO HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON AVIATION SECURITY**

**Montréal, 12 to 14 September 2012**

**Agenda Item 2: Enhancing Air Cargo Security**

**AVIATION SECURITY**

(Presented by the European Union and its Member States<sup>1</sup> and by the other Member States<sup>2</sup> of the European Civil Aviation Conference)

**SUMMARY**

This working paper on aviation security considers pertinent issues to Agenda Item 2: Enhancing air cargo security. This item was considered by the Aviation Security Panel at its last meeting in March 2012 which has facilitated and advised upon the way forward.

Action by the High-level Conference on Aviation Security is in paragraph 2.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Improvements to the global aviation security system by enhancing air cargo and mail security are required. Additional security measures have been implemented by some ICAO Member States in the aftermath of the attempts, in 2010, to sabotage aircraft by concealing improvised explosive devices in consignments shipped as air cargo out of Yemen. Europe has enhanced the security of air cargo and mail by requiring security controls on inbound cargo and mail being flown into its territory in addition to the previously implemented robust supply chain system for outbound cargo and mail.

1.2 The air cargo and mail industry is highly integrated across borders, and as such requires harmonised security rules across borders, even more so than passenger traffic. In turn, harmonisation can help achieve equivalency of respective security regimes and thus pave the way for achieving mutual recognition between ICAO Member States.

1.3 Now, ICAO needs to act swiftly in this domain to mitigate the threat to air cargo and to avoid contradictory or incompatible approaches by signalling to ICAO Member States the way forward in this domain. That way forward should include adopting expediently robust international Standards for air cargo security.

<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

1.4 Enhancements to existing cargo and mail requirements should be based on supply chain security or physical security controls. ICAO's Working Group on Air Cargo Security has brought forward key elements, such as the definition of 'high-risk cargo', enhanced security controls for 'high-risk cargo', and the strengthening of measures for cargo on board all-cargo aircraft. These elements should form the new international baseline for the establishment of Standards for air cargo and mail security.

1.5 In parallel to the adoption of enhanced Standards and Recommended Practices for cargo and mail, ICAO should urge Member States to ensure effective implementation of cargo and mail security measures.

1.6 Finally, to enhance air cargo and mail security and to strengthen aviation security globally and in a collaborative manner, closer cooperation and harmonisation with other supply chain security authorities (for example World Customs Organization and Universal Postal Union) are needed. The new ICAO standards should therefore inter alia, where possible, harmonise the respective requirements for Authorized Economic Operators, regulated agents and known consignors in order to promote synergies between the instruments and the security programmes of those authorities, to avoid duplication, and to reduce costs for the industry. Ongoing discussions and pilots conducted by customs authorities with industry on advance electronic cargo information for security purposes should be followed closely and pilots' outcomes considered in cooperation between the different organisations.

## 2. ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE

2.1 The Conference is invited to:

- a) endorse the key requirements for enhancing air cargo and mail security advanced by ICAO's Working Group on Air Cargo Security; and
- b) underline the urgency of bringing new Standards for enhancing air cargo and mail security into effect by inviting the Council to adopt such Standards as soon as possible through an amendment to Annex 17 — *Security* to the Chicago Convention.

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