



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

DISCUSSION PAPER

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Twenty-sixth Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/26)
New Orleans, United States, 1 - 3 December 2015

Agenda Item 2 Review of the Conclusions from the Previous E/CAR/DCA Meetings and the Fifth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/5)

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

(Presented by the PIARCO Policy Ad hoc Group)

1. An Ad hoc meeting of the States within the Piarco FIR was held under the auspices of ICAO. The States were Barbados, France, the ECCAA (on behalf of the OECS States), the United Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago.
2. This meeting was briefing with a historical background on the main issues regarding the PIARCO FIR ATS agreement. In this regard the ECCAA informed the meeting that the matter had been elevated to the Heads of Government and at the level of CARICOM. ICAO suggested that in order to ensure completion, this matter should be dealt with at the group level. The ECCAA indicated that based on its mandate, discussion and dialogue can continue but it was not prepared to adopt that strategy.
3. Trinidad and Tobago referred to the agreement it proposed in 2011. Barbados and the ECCAA (OECS) commented on the agreement. The ECCAA indicated that it was not prepared to sign the agreement without an overriding agreement for the funding and the sharing of revenue from the revenue was effected (France and the UK indicated that they had not been privy to this draft agreement).
4. France pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago owed it money for overflight fees, that it was not demanding payment but wished to be informed on the operation/management of the FIR as well as on financial issues (how the revenue derived is being utilized); Barbados expressed the interest in collecting fees for aircraft using our navigational aids in overflying BGI within the PIARCO FIR. This would assist in the maintenance with the Air Navigation infrastructure and its implementation.
5. The ECCAA informed the meeting that since 2007, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago contributed financially to the acquisition of four (4) DMEs and three (3) DVORs for installation on States in the OECS.

6. Barbados and the ECCAA informed the meeting that the following issues were of importance in moving to a resolution of this matter. They include:

- a. Revenue sharing;
- b. Accountability of revenue on the part of Trinidad and Tobago to the other States within the FIR;
- c. Re-activating the Piarco FIR Policy Group and/or restructuring of the Caribbean Air Navigation Advisory Services (CANAS) so that the other States in the FIR (Barbados, France and the OECS States) have a seat on the Board of Directors thereby facilitating their participation in the decision-making process of the organization;
- d. Maintaining dialogue on the operation/management of the FIR through some mechanism.

7. In this regard, it was agreed that

- a) by **18th December 2015**, Barbados, France, United Kingdom and the OECS inform Trinidad and Tobago on its concerns and other issues to be included in the agreements related to the FIR;
- b) provide suggestions/proposed solutions on the way forward by 18 December 2015; and
- c) based on the foregoing, develop an action plan for development of the agreement by 15th January 2015; informing ICAO NACC Office of such Action Plan.