

MEETING SUMMARY

7th meeting of the European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities (ENCASIA), Brussels, 18 September 2013

35 persons representing 22 MS + 5 observers attended the meeting (BE, BG, CY, CZ, DK, EE, FI, FR, DE, HU, IE, IT, LV, LU, NL, PO, RO, SK, SI, ES, SW and UK + IS, NO, Kosovo, EASA and ECAC).

Experience made with Regulation (EU) No 996/2010

Overall, MS consider that the Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 has been positive. This was underlined, in particular, by BE, who managed to remove several findings thanks to this EU piece of legislation during the ICVM that was performed last August by ICAO. The use of safety reports in litigation remains a concern for some SIAs, notably IE and UK. The national legislation of FI and NL forbids such use, whereas in other MS, nothing prevents judicial authorities from using these public reports.

Regarding the implementation of some provisions of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010, several MS still have difficulties, notably with the adoption of advance arrangements between the SIA and the judicial authorities as well as with the adoption of national emergency plans and the oversight of the assistance plans of the airlines established in their territory.

The Commission mentioned its actions regarding advance arrangements and civil aviation emergency plans. It noted a lot of progress with the use of the Safety Recommendations Information System (SRIS). The analysis of the content of SRIS, foreseen by the Regulation, could feed into the European Aviation Safety Plan. The Commission also highlighted that it will ask the MS feedback to prepare a review that needs to be finalized no later than 3 December 2014 according to Article 24 of Regulation (EU) No 996/2010. ENCASIA was also asked to provide a preliminary opinion before mid-2014.

Interim reports of the working groups

WG1 (BE) "Network Communication and Internet Presence" presented the structure and most of the content of the future ENCASIA website, which was approved by the meeting.

WG2 (FR) "Inventory of best practices of investigation in Europe" presented the preparation of an electronic document/interface to centralize the various procedures according to the different stages of an investigation. Such tool already helps in identifying some areas of variability and in harmonizing practices. Ultimately, common ENCASIA procedures would be recommended.

WG3 (SI) provided an updated list of SIA's emergency numbers and restated the need to further specify an automated tool. The Commission underlined the importance of formalizing the concept of mutual assistance in case of a major accident and mentioned the idea of organizing a crisis simulation/exercise to test the various procedures. The suggestion was welcomed by the meeting.

WG4 (IE) "Training of investigators": The first sponsored training course was successfully organized by ENCASIA last May in the UK. The next one will take place in France in October.

WG5 (UK) presented a proposal for the introduction of Peer Reviews, supported by three documents; Draft Background and Guidance for the Peer Review of a SIA; Budget bid to support the Peer Review process during 2014; Draft Peer Review Questionnaire. The draft questionnaire raised numerous comments.

WG6 (IT) presented the Terms of References and an analysis of the database's content. Key questions that will need the development of guidance material were highlighted. The Commission also informed the meeting of the development and testing of new functionalities developed by the JRC. The meeting adopted the WG6 ToRs on "Safety Recommendations".

Financial implementation of the work programme

For the 2013 grant, ENCASIA presented two projects: a training session to be held in Germany (on the model of the two previous ones) plus the peer review process which should cover the training and onsite visit of reviewers in 4 MS for 2014. 50 % of the grant would cover the training project with an EU dimension on ATM and airports and the other 50% would be devoted to the 'Peer Reviews' programme. ENCASIA voted in favour of these 2 actions (21 votes for, 1 abstention (ES), 0 against).

Update on other fora

The Commission gave an update of the activities of the Network of Analysts (NoA) with emphasis on work performed on the EU common classification scheme.

Safety Information Protection Task Force: Some results of the final task force meeting will be discussed during the 38th Assembly while the final report of the group should be prepared by the ICAO secretariat.

ECAC ACC: The ACC chairman gave an update on the upcoming ACC/40 meeting scheduled in Derby (UK) on 29-30 October 2013. This meeting will put emphasis on large engines as Rolls-Royce will be the host. He also added that a steering committee had been formed to organize a workshop on the investigation in hostile environment to be held in Switzerland.

38th Session of the ICAO Assembly: The ECAC Secretariat informed the meeting of some papers having an interesting for the safety investigation community. He also mentioned again the European paper highlighting recurrent difficulties encountered in some investigations. The Commission also highlighted that there were several papers at the Assembly dealing with data protection.

European Society of Air Safety Investigators: The ESASI chairman announced the next European seminar, which is scheduled in Milan sometimes in April 2014. He also informed ENCASIA that ISASI 2015 would be organized by the European Society in Germany (Augsburg near Munich).

Annual Safety Recommendations Review 2012

EASA made a presentation on the ELT issues that started on a Boeing 787 operated by Ethiopian Airlines parked at Heathrow airport on 12 July 2013, with emphasis on the follow-up actions taken by Honeywell, the FAA and EASA.

AOB

In accordance with ENCASIA's rules of procedures, the next meeting (January 2014) will have to elect the ENCASIA chairman and deputy chairman.