



## **Immediate release**

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### **EUROMED - ECAC Joint Seminar for the MEDA Countries on Aviation Security (20-21 February 2008 - Paris)**

Paris, France – In the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum intended for the benefit of the MEDA countries<sup>1</sup>, the Euromed Aviation Project and the European Civil Aviation Conference have jointly organised a two-day seminar in Paris (France) from 20 to 21 February 2008 on aviation security.

With the annual number of global air passengers predicted to rise from an expected 5 billion in 2010 to more than 9 billion in 2025<sup>2</sup>, aviation safety and security around the world is more than ever a global priority. In this respect the Euromed Aviation Project is particularly important for the Mediterranean region, addressing aviation, security, safety, environment and air traffic management issues.

Welcoming the participants to the seminar, Mr Gerry Lumsden, Executive Secretary of ECAC, expressed his belief that ECAC and MEDA countries share the same underlying principles and goals in the field of civil aviation security. He continued that: "this seminar will allow us to explore the methods by which both partners implement these objectives in practice and by so doing, learn from each other. We in ECAC believe that we have a reasonably good policy on aviation security, one we are proud of".

During the seminar, fifty participants coming from eight MEDA countries - Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey - from International Organisations (AACO, AEA, ICAO,...), from EU Member States (The Netherlands and France) as well as from industry and from consultancy were briefed on the main EU aviation security regulatory framework and other European aviation security developments.

Group discussions and various presentations from Algeria, Morocco, Turkey, the Netherlands, France and industry representatives enabled a better and common understanding of the challenges the Euro-Mediterranean region is facing in aviation security.

Participants expressed a strong interest in the Euromed Aviation Project and asked its support to provide training, technical assistance and mechanisms to foster the sharing of experience. Priorities should be given to establishing and implementing quality control. Screening was also raised as a priority issue.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Source: EuroMed Transport website

**Note to Editors:**

Founded in 1955 as an intergovernmental organisation, **ECAC**'s objective is to promote the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system.

The following 42 States are members of ECAC: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

The **Euromed Aviation Project** is an initiative of the European Union which is financed by up to 4,99 million EUR for three years by the European Commission's MEDA programme.

The Project is managed by a consortium of five European companies: EgisAvia (F) leader, Ineco (E), Ecorys (NL), Ersnt & Young (I) and Lufthansa Consulting (D).

The Project started on 15 January 2007 and aims to promote the emergence of a Euro-Mediterranean Common Aviation Area and to facilitate any future negotiations of comprehensive Euro-Mediterranean Aviation Agreements between the European Union and the Mediterranean partners.

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