



EU-South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II



EU-India Aviation Summit

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EU-India Aviation Summit

The EU-India Aviation Summit was held at The Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi between 20th and 21st April 2023. The Summit focused on a high-level overview of the EU-India aviation relations state of play. The dignitaries touched upon the most pertinent issues, including decarbonization, fostering innovation, EU-India connectivity, aviation safety, and the prospects for promoting further cooperation.

The summit was opened by Andreas Carlson, Sweden's Minister of Infrastructure and Housing, together with Shri Rajiv Bansal, The Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Moreover, Adina Valean, European Union Commissioner for Transport, and Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, addressed the summit virtually.

The summit was conducted by a moderator for each panel with a set of expert panelists followed up with Q&A sessions. The discussions were based on connectivity, trends, challenges, and opportunities, as well as environmental sustainability challenges for aviation and new approaches to the challenge of growth and congestion in the air and on the ground. Close attention was given to unmanned endeavors focusing

on the potential for urban air mobility and unmanned aircraft systems and the emerging regulatory framework. The discussion also included a panel on Women in Aviation in India topic. Work remains still to be done to close the gender gap in aviation. This session reflected on how India can improve the gender balance in the aviation sector with more gender-responsive policies and capacity building. It also showcased successful role models to inspire current and future generations of female aviation professionals with Capt. Zoya Agarwal being one of the panelists in the session.

The event was funded by the EU-South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II and jointly organized by the European Commission and the Ministry of Civil

Aviation of India, with over 175 high-level participants in attendance. Taking into consideration that one of the main objectives of the project remains the goal to strengthen the partnership between the EU and the South Asia region in the domain of civil aviation, the first day of the EU-India Aviation Summit marked the signature of two Letters of Intent for which the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II pathed the way. The first LoI signed between EASA, and DGCA India will promote further cooperation between the two parties in the area of Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility. The second LoI signed between EUROCONTROL and Airport Authority Of India will promote further cooperation between the two parties and optimize strategies in ATM/ANS.



ENVIRONMENT MATTERS IN AVIATION

Bilateral Support to India on CORSIA and State Action Plans

After a successful Regional Workshop on Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Dehradun, India, a seven-day program for bilateral support to India on CORSIA and State Action Plans was conducted between 19th and 27th June 2023 in The Grand New Delhi Hotel. The workshop was inaugurated with the traditional lighting of the lamp by the experts, EU-SA APP II Project Manager, and directors from DGCA India.

Africa Abajas, Maria De la Rica, Mark Latimer, and Ted Elliff delivered this extensive workshop, joined by 40 interactive participants from India at this event. This seven-day activity aimed at supporting the Indian regulatory, accreditation, and verification bodies,

as well as the civil aviation industry, with a series of comprehensive sessions designed to provide capacity building, assistance, and support to focal points from aviation authorities and relevant organizations involved in CORSIA implementation and the development

of India's State Action Plan. These sessions offered the representatives from relevant stakeholders involved in each session unique practical exercises and comprehensive knowledge sharing.



The workshop concluded with a visit to the airport facilities, where the participants from the regulatory bodies, the Ministry of civil aviation, and the Air Navigation Service Provider discussed the SAP towards green aviation. The workshop covered in detail the following topics:

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| 19 JUNE | CORSIA Basics, understanding the scheme. |
| 20 JUNE | CORSIA MRV and CORSIA Eligible Fuels. |
| 21 JUNE | CORSIA Verification and future Amendments to CORSIA SARPs. |
| 22 JUNE | In-depth training on CORSIA Offsetting requirements.
Understanding current and future impacts.
CORSIA Eligible Units and Carbon Market. |
| 23 JUNE | Role of Aeroplane Operators in State Action Plan.
Mitigation Measure Monitoring. ICAO Statistics Forms. |
| 26-27 JUNE | State Action Plan in India. Monitoring of Mitigation Measures described in the current version of 2021. Airport-focused Carbon Reduction projects (Joint session with Airports and ANSP). |

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS IN AVIATION

CORSIA Accreditation Witness Audit Support Activity

Africa Abajas held a meeting on behalf of the project with Dr. Sampath Wahala, Chairman of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB), with his team members to discuss the feasibility of conducting a witness audit to accredit Sustainable Future Group as a verifier from Sri

Lanka. It is noted that Sri Lanka does not have a verifier as of yet, and SLAB is keen to have a verifier and is requesting assistance from the EU-SA APP II to achieve this goal. The decision was made to conduct the witness audit activity in the Maldives in August.





South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI)

The SARI program has gathered momentum with experts for all technical domains provided by the EU-SA APP II to assist the region with regard to Regulatory Development in each individual State as desired. It is envisaged that the states, as far as practicable, will adopt and customize the EU rules for AIR, FCL, and OPS in order to have harmonized regulations in the South Asia Region, which is one of the prime objectives of the EU-SA APP.

The first on-site SARI Regulatory Development Workshop on AIR Part 66 and Part 147 was carried out by Asmir Kruhovic, between 2 – 4 May 2023. Mahmood Razeq, the Project Director and Mr. Muhammad Zahid Bhatti, SARI Coordinator, attended the meeting, too.

EASA Part M Implementation Visit was conducted between 8 – 12 May 2023, with the participation of two SARI Qualified Experts (SQEs) Mariam Shifzan, Senior Airworthiness Engineer, CAA Maldives, and Kashan Saleem, Sr. Joint Director Airworthiness, CAA Pakistan. During the Implementation Visit they carried out Audits at Sri Lankan Airlines, Fits Air and Cinnamon Air.

Nadia Konzali conducted the SARI PART M Implementation Visit to Maldives between 21 – 25 May 2023 with the participation of Mahmood Razeq, Muhammad Zahid Bhatti, along with Sonam Tshering SQE from Bhutan CAA and Engr. Mohammad Shafiul Azam from Civil Aviation Authority Bangladesh. During the Implementation Visits, the team conducted Audits at Island Aviation Services (Maldivian Airline).





The much-awaited Implementation visit for FCL Part ORA was conducted by EASA FCL Expert Eleonora Italia and together with FCL/OPS Expert Capt. Peter Wilczek. The Implementation visit took place between 5 – 9 June 2023. The first two days were dedicated to seeing the compliance of CAASL to EU FCL Part ORA, and the latter two days were dedicated to conducting an audit on one of the Approved Training Organizations for Flight Training Open Skies Ltd. Once the documentary evaluation was completed, the two experts conducted an audit of the main flight operations base in Katukurunda.

The introductory workshop for EU OPS was conducted by Capt. Peter Wilczek as CAASL agreed to customize EU rules for OPS as well as they have already customized FCL and AIR with EU Rules. The workshop was conducted for CAASL on

the 11th and 13th June, and on the 12th June a meeting was conducted for the industry participants and all other aviation stakeholders, which was quite an interactive session. CAASL has agreed to go with the EU Rules as they are scalable, easy to adopt, with alternative means of compliance and guidance material readily available.

Part M Implementation Visit to Pakistan was carried out between 19-23 Jun 2023 by Nadia Konzali. Mahmood Razeq, Project Director of EU-SA APP II, and Zahid Bhatti, SARI Coordinator, also joined the activity together with SQEs from Nepal and Sri Lanka. During the visit, the team visited Airblue and Air Sial to audit the Implementation of the rules. In addition, Pakistan CAA is completing the transposing of EU FCL Part ORA and Capt. Riaz Chisthi held discussions with Capt. Peter Wilczek

regarding capacity building of PCAA staff with the new regulations. He was confident that the new rules would not have a significant impact on the industry other than the particular terminology used in the new rules. Further discussions were held with regard to PCAA adopting EU OPS rules as well.

Maldives CAA requested assistance from Capt. Peter Wilczek for EU OPS Part SPA. They needed expert advice on approving Low Visibility Operations, ETOPS, and EFB for AOC Holders in the Maldives. MCAA is compliant with EU OPS, but due to the nature of operations, Part SPA is a new activity for AOC holders, and the Expert assured that he would visit Maldives when MCAA is carrying out the Documentary evaluation phase of the operator. In the meantime, online meetings will be conducted for a quick review of regulations.





Support in ATM/ANS

After a lapse of almost 3 years, ATM/ANS experts Peter Alber and German Meyer have come on board the Project.

With the new addition to the team, Daniel Cruz, who has joined the group of experts. Bilateral meetings were held with the individual states to promote the approach for an ATM/ANS Master Planning development in the South Asian region following a collaborative approach, which is identified as an essential step for improving the performance of ATM/ANS in the region in the most effective way and to provide specific practical support to the South Asian Member States with the improvement of planning, implementation,

systems and infrastructure, regulation and oversight related to ATM/ANS. In Q2, further meetings were held to ensure that the experts have a good overview of activities from previous assignments, an update on the global and regional planning context, a proposed approach towards harmonized Air Navigation Master Planning in the SA Region, and to have a detailed discussion and review of questionnaire and discussion of needs and states' priorities.

The EU-South Asia aviation Partnership Project II was conceived as a follow-up to the preceding project, which ended in 2020. It will ensure continuing outreach in the aviation sector with the Authorities in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

The main project objective is to enhance the partnership between the EU and the South Asian Region in the domain of Civil Aviation. Global Aviation is facing more and more demanding challenges every day to maintain and increase the level of safety to achieve more efficient, accessible, and environmentally friendly aviation. A regional approach to these challenges has proven to be the best way to address these issues so that experiences could be shared and synergies be created.

IMPLEMENTED THROUGH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT ARE:

- 1- Institutional Links
- 2- EU-SA Market Access
- 3- EU Common Rules and Environmental Protection



At a glance the EU-SA Aviation Partner Project II aligns EU and SA in the field of Civil Aviation.



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