



EU-South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II

NEWSLETTER 2023



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COSCAP-SA 30th Steering Committee Meeting

DHAKA, 24-26 JANUARY 2023

The 30th Steering Committee Meeting of COSCAP-SA was a high-level and colorful event that took place in Le Meridian Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh, between 24-26th January. It was presided over by Mr. Tao Ma, the ICAO APAC Regional Director, and Chief Technical Advisor, Capt. Marie Zubryckij. It was attended in person by all the DGs of Member States other than India and Afghanistan, who joined

the event online. Key presentations covered the issues of Advanced Data Analytics in Aviation Safety, COSCAP-SA Member States Representation in the ICAO Council, the Nepal National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP) 2023-2025 and the Adoption of Annex 13 Contents in National Regulations. Since both EU-SA APP II and COSCAP-SA are working to enhance the Oversight Capabilities of the Member States, the participants

appreciated that both entities are coordinating these efforts. Mr. Carlos Menendez, EU-SA APP II Project Manager, reiterated his support of COSCAP-SA and made clear that his project will not duplicate or overlap the trainings conducted by COSCAP-SA but rather harmonize activities to foster dialogue between Civil Aviation Authorities and strengthen institutional links to encourage regional cooperation.

ONLINE WEBINAR:

State Action Plan tutorial for Pakistan CAA (7-9 February 2023)

The SAP expert Ted Elliff presented to the CAA Pakistan and its industry the basic concepts of a State Action Plan and how each stakeholder is expected

to contribute and play their part, during the 3-day online webinar held in February. Excellent discussions took place with each group where available data was discussed and potential mitigation measures examined. A good momentum was established and a possible site visit is planned in the next months to develop a mature draft of the State Action Plan.



ENVIRONMENT MATTERS IN AVIATION:

EU & South Asia working to foster Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), Dehradun, 14-17 March 2023

In the 41st ICAO Assembly a decision has been taken as a Long-Term Aspirational Goal to ensure net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 which was accepted by the industry as a milestone achievement. In this backdrop, EU-SA APP II has contributed to discuss Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) by organising a regional workshop on this topic in collaboration with the DGCA India at the Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) based in Dehradun. India is of primary importance for developing SAF in the region, and the Lab and technical facilities available at IIP helped participants better understand the subject.

The workshop was attended by over 65 participants onsite from the member states stakeholders. A record number of experts attended in person, and these were joined by several online speakers who shared their knowledge and experiences in SAF. India has made considerable progress in SAF, as was evident from both the presentations and the strong participation of representatives from local entities. The workshop's presentations covered the following topics:



UNDERSTANDING WHAT SAF IS AND ITS VALUE CHAIN

- What is SAF? What are the approved conversion pathways?
- Feedstock, Production, Blending, Certification, and downstream logistics.
- Production and Supply – an EU perspective.

WHAT MAKES AN AVIATION FUEL SUSTAINABLE?

- An overview of the Sustainability Criteria for SAF.
- Understanding the Life Cycle Emissions of SAF and its Certification.
- SAF in Market Based Measures – EU ETS, UK ETS and CORSIA and the experience of airlines.

SAF ECONOMICS AND POLICIES

- Existing SAF Production, Capacity and Supply.
- Future scalability of SAF – the Outlook and challenges on Supply and Demand.
- SAF Policies in the EU – RefuelEU Aviation/State Mandates.

Air India, IndiGo, Spice Jet, CSIR-IIP and DGCA India demonstrated how India as a State has evolved in preparation of using SAF for Commercial Aviation Operations. Notably, Indian Air Force has already been using SAF for over 100 flight hours. Presenters also informed that there is momentum of SAF growing in the US, the UK and in some EU states, with legislation being adopted and mandated to ensure a certain percentage of usage of SAF by 2030. Indonesia has mandated 3% in 2020 increasing up to 5% by 2025 with Australia, Brazil, Canada, China and Japan are exploring options to stimulate SAF.

Pioneering expert Ms. Africa Abajas, who conducted the initial Scoping Study on environment matters in the South Asian region in 2018 with her colleague Ms. María de la Rica, and who has relentlessly carried out many workshops and provided assistance to the South Asian States on environmental matters in Aviation supporting the EU-SA APP project ever since, was joined by Mr. Mark Latimer to conduct a very fruitful workshop on SAF.

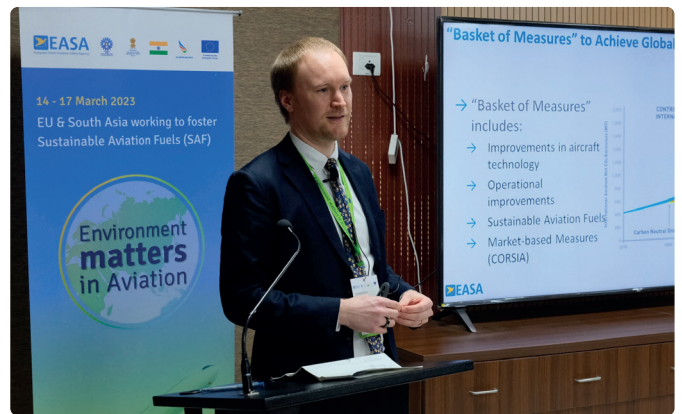
Mr. Joonas Laukia, Environment Expert - Market-based Measures at EASA, spoke about Market-based Measures to achieve this aspirational goal which included improvements in Aircraft Technology and Operations, SAF and CORSIA.





Presentations were carried out by the Industry participants from EU and India, mostly on-site and also remotely.

It was also observed that other than India, the rest of the South Asian States are yet in a preliminary state of SAF developments, which was duly noticed by Mr. Carlos Menéndez, the EU-SA APP II project manager, stating that these States will be offered assistance in capacity building in SAF, which will be addressed by the EU-SA APP II Project in the future. A follow-up regional session will also be organised in Sri Lanka during the course of 2023.





Series of SMS/SSP Workshops and Trainings

IN NEPAL (13-17 MARCH 2023) AND BHUTAN (20-24 MARCH 2023)

The 1st onsite visits to Nepal and Bhutan under the second phase of the project involved a series of SMS/SSP Workshops that were well attended and high in participation from both industry and CAAs. In Nepal, the experts had the opportunity to evaluate and provide their feedback on the State Safety Program and National Aviation Safety Plan. They were very satisfied with the progress achieved since the initial engagement.

In Bhutan, this was the first SMS/SSP onsite workshop that was carried out, and it was well attended with over 35 participants, including at the CEO level. The secretary to the Ministry was a keen participant, helping to iron out many questions with the experts.

Additionally, Mr. Simon Roberts and Dr. Hazel Courteney organized an online meeting with CAA Sri Lanka to evaluate their answers to the ICAO SSP/SMS Proto-

col Questions (PQs). They continued their assistance and ensured that the PQs for ANS and AGA were completed.

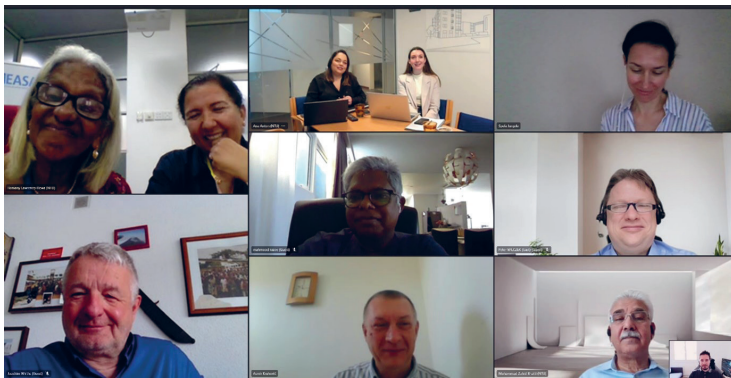
Mr. Carlos Menendez too visited Bhutan with his project team to have bilateral discussions with the BCAA. During the visit, he met with the Director of the Civil Aviation Authority to align the objectives and interests from a high-level point of view.



ENVIRONMENT MATTERS IN AVIATION:

CORSIA session, Bhutan, 20 March 2023

The project planned a meeting to discuss Environment Matters in Aviation and Expert Ms. Africa Abajas conducted a 1-day session for the CAA staff and industry representatives, with a focus on CORSIA and Market-Based-Measures.



Q1 2023 ANNOUNCEMENT

Nine new experts on board to carry out support in AIR, PEL, OPS, LEG, and ATM/ANS

Good news for all Member States: EU-SA APP II has been able to acquire the services of a number of experts to assist the Regulation Development Workshops through the SARI program. Mr. Asmir Kruhovic and Ms. Nadia Konzali (AIR), Mr. Joachim Wirths, Mr. Peter Wilczek (PEL & OPS), Ms. Daniela Defossar (OPS), and Ms. Ioana Cristoiu (LEG) are experts and very familiar with EASA Airworthiness, Flight Crew Licensing, Operations, and Legal domains - all expertise that is very relevant to the project activities. The Project looks forward to their input for the ongoing harmonization of rules in the Region.

The SARI program that is currently funded by the project will continue to conduct Regulatory Development

Workshops to help the South Asian States harmonize regulations.

EASA FCL Expert, Ms. Eleonora Italia, has already conducted 22 online sessions with CAASL and has completed the Regulation Development Workshops for approved training organizations. She will be visiting Sri Lanka to conduct an onsite workshop in April. A second EASA FCL expert, Mr. Sandro Fabbrini, commenced his assistance with Pakistan CAA and has made comparative progress in developing the Regulation on FCL for PCAA.

Ms. Daniella Defossar has commenced the RDW for EU OPS with CAA Nepal. During the initial meeting with the SARI Team, Mr. Raju Shrestha of CAA Nepal

asked the SARI Coordinator. Mr. Zahid Bhatti for a brief explanation by another Member State, which has completed the RDW for EU OPS, to get a clear idea of the challenges that a State would face during the transition period. CAA Maldives and CAA Bangladesh are both compelled by carrying out separate presentations.

Lastly, Mr. German Meyer and Mr. Peder Alber are returning to the project after their involvement in the 1st phase, supported by Mr. Daniel Cruz. The three experts will support the states in the ATM/ANS domain and are ready to kick-off the activities on 11th April 2023.



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 Lol 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 Lol 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 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:

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.





Q2 2023 UPDATE

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 Razee, the Project Director and Mr. Muhammad Zahid Bhatti, SARI Coordinator, attended the meeting, too.

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).

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 Razee, Muhammad Zahid Bhatti, along with





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 alternate 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 Razee, 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.



Upset Prevention and Recovery Training (UPRT) Workshop for Regulators

SINGAPORE, 3-7 JULY 2023

The goal of this five-day workshop designed exclusively for Asian regulators was to provide knowledge, skills, understanding, and attitude enabling the participants to explain the ICAO provisions and the EU regulations applicable to UPRT and to enhance the safety of airline operations, including Flight Crew Training in FSTDs, the UPRT requirements for FCL, as well as enabling CAAs personnel to assist in the development of UPRT regulations.

This activity was jointly organized by the three Aviation Partnership Projects (APPs) funded by the EU and implemented by EASA in collaboration with the two ICAO's Co-operative Development of Operational Safety and Continuing Airworthiness initiatives (COSCAP-SEA and COSCAP-SA), covering North, South, and Southeast Asian regions. In total, 35 participants from Asian CAAs attended this activity from 19 different countries, joined by experts

from Airbus, ATR, Boeing, EASA, and IATA, to share their in-depth knowledge of the UPRT topic with the participants from various perspectives.

The highlight of the activity was the visit of the Airbus Asia Training Centre (AATC) in Singapore to provide the participants with firsthand experience and an opportunity to observe the methods and techniques they discussed during the workshop.

Our special thanks goes to the onsite experts: Fernando Sanchidrian, for delivering the activity, and the experts from Airbus, ATR, Boeing, EASA and IATA for the technical support onsite. If you read the newsletter in a digital format, make sure to watch the video from this activity [here](#).



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

Collaboration on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovation of Air Mobility between EASA and DGCA India

BRUSSELS, 4 JULY 2023

EASA and the DGCA India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and Innovative Air Mobility (IAM) to ensure the highest standards of aviation safety and environmental protection.

This MoU is a follow-up to the Letter of Intent (LoI) signed between EASA and DGCA India during the EU-India Aviation Summit held in Delhi, 20-21 April 2023, for which the EU – South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II pathed the way. The agreement was signed by Mr. Vikram Dev Dutt, Director General of DGCA India, and Mr. Luc Tytgat, Strategy and Safety Management Director, EASA, on 4th July 2023.

Under the MoU, EASA and DGCA India will collaborate in the following three areas:



1. Development of Regulatory Standards:

Development of regulatory safety and environmental standards and related requirements for the certification and operation of UAS and IAM, as well as for the competencies of personnel and organizations involved in such operations, including aspects related to airworthiness, operations, licensing, training, air traffic management, and infrastructure, including U-space (UAS Traffic Management – UTM) standards and services.

2. Outreach

- Information on technological developments and research on UAS and IAM and their operations, including airspace integration aspects and U-Space (UTM).
- Strategies for outreach to relevant stakeholders on UAS and IAM, including educational outreach to the public and industry.
- Analysis of public attitudes towards UAS and IAM.

3. Conferences and Other Activities:

Joint organization of conferences, workshops, training programs, and other activities on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Innovative Air Mobility.

Both EASA and the DGCA India note that UAS and IAM operations are novel, dynamic, and fast-growing sectors for which national and international safety and environmental standards are still evolving, therefore recognize the importance of establishing cooperation on UAS and IAM which is underlined by this MoU.

Project Steering Committee Meeting

ONLINE, 14 JULY 2023

The objective of the Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSCM) for the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II was to facilitate the review, evaluation, and direction of the project's activities. During the PSCM, stakeholders from the EU came together to discuss and assess the project's work plan, receive valuable feedback from the stakeholders, and make provisional agreements regarding the project's further implementation.

The meeting began with the opening remarks from EASA by Mr. Luc Tytgat, Strategy and Safety Management Director, and Mr. Thomas Mickler, Head of International Cooperation Department. The importance of the South Asian region and the rapid development of aviation in it has been highlighted and they reconfirmed that that EASA gives importance to the project and the management of it. Warm words have been



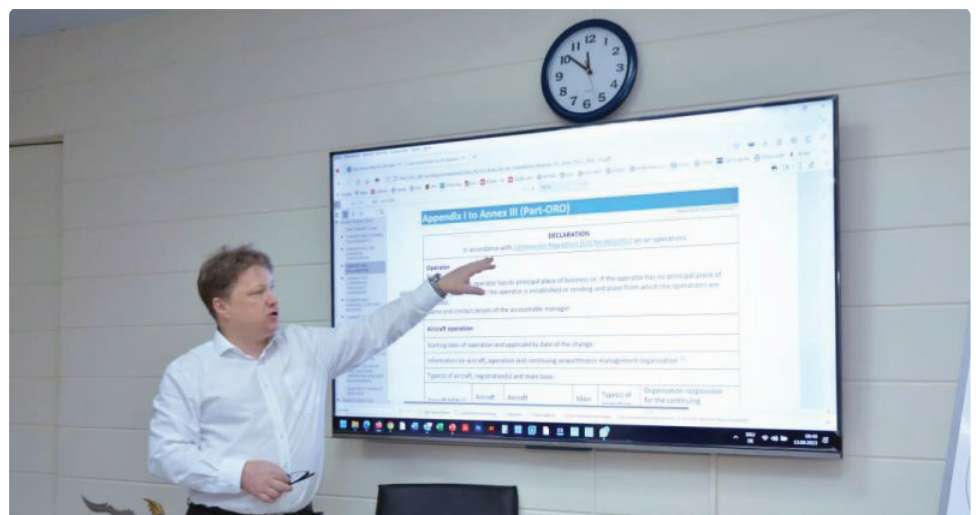
also shared by Mr. Philippe Joppart, Senior Advisor for International Relations & Cooperation at EUROCONTROL, who acknowledged the project's efforts and expressed EUROCONTROL is very keen to collaborate with the project for its upcoming activities under the ATM/ANS Initiative planned to peak between Q3 2023 and Q2 2024.

The updated workplan of the project for 2023 was presented by Carlos Menendez, Project Manager, at this occasion and has been endorsed by the present parties including the DG MOVE and the EUD to India.

SARI OPS Regulation Development Workshop

NEPAL, 24-28 JULY 2023 AND PAKISTAN, 11 SEP 2023

To offer a comprehensive overview of the EASA OPS regulations, including their structure and fundamental principles, two five-day introductory OPS Regulation Development Workshops have been organized in Nepal and Pakistan. These workshops have been arranged through the collaborative efforts of SARI.





During the workshops, the SARI expert shared his knowledge on drafting regulations and provided practical examples of how to create Air Operations regulations that align with European standards. Participants also had the chance to practice regulation drafting with guidance from the expert.

To promote broader industry understanding, the workshops were partially opened to industry participants as well. The response was exceptionally positive, with not only CAA officials in attendance but also senior management representatives from prominent airlines.

The SARI OPS RDW in Nepal was delivered by Capt. Peter Wilczek, SARI expert, and Daniela Defossar, EASA, between 24-28 July at the premises of the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal in Kathmandu.

On the first and the second day of the workshop, representatives from Yeti Airlines, Summit Air, Nepal Airlines Corporation, Saurya Airlines, Shree Airlines, Buddha Air, and SITA AIR Ltd. joined the activity onsite. This was also the first international workshop at the CAAN's new building!

Over the course of the five days in Pakistan, CAA officials and SARI expert Peter Wilczek collaboratively formulated a roadmap for the implementation of these OPS standards in Pakistan. Additionally, specific timelines for drafting the rules were established, and a monitoring system to gauge PCAA's progress was also devised.

Participants from Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Airblue, AirSial Limited, Serene Air, Fly Jinnah, and Air Eagle participated during the first day of this activity too.





Air Navigation Planning and Performance Management Workshop

MALDIVES, 18-21 SEPTEMBER 2023

This regional workshop was the first in a series for our ATM/ANS initiative, which aims to increase harmonization and convergence on ATM/ANS planning, implementation, and oversight, increase collaboration and market access for industry, and advance a regional framework for cooperation on ATM/ANS Master Planning.

Improving the performance of ATM/ANS planning, implementation, and oversight is crucial for the aviation industry. EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II aims to do just that through capacity building, awareness raising, and market access improvement in the South Asian region.

We plan to achieve these objectives by conducting regional workshops, promoting regional ATM/ANS Master Planning, supporting regional initiatives and partnerships, and involving the industry. By doing so, we expect to see a regional framework for cooperation on ATM/ANS Master Planning, increased harmonization and convergence on ATM/ANS planning,

implementation, and oversight, and increased collaboration and market access for industry.

The initiative aims to take stock of all the conclusions reached during the first phase of the project and advance cooperation in ATM/ANS planning, implementation, and oversight, including a potential South Asian ANS Masterplan.

Through this initiative, we hope to promote the development of common air navigation systems and procedures that will enhance the performance of aviation in both regions in terms of safety, efficiency, and environment sustainability, among others.

We kicked off the first onsite regional workshop of the ATM/ANS initiative held in the Maldives, with the title Air Navigation Planning and Performance Management Workshop aimed to advance the development of effective strategies for Air Navigation planning and implementation, foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among the participants from the South Asian Civil Aviation Authorities and the Air Navigation Service Providers. In total, 30 participants from Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka attended the workshop delivered by the project's experts, German Meyer, Peder Alber, and Daniel Cruz, in the Maldives between 18-21 September 2023.



The workshop covered essential topics such as the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), regional guidance for planning, the ICAO Basic Building Blocks (BBBs) and the Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) Framework. The experts also delved into European air navigation planning experiences, including discussions on the Single European Sky policy and the performance scheme, the SESAR Programme, and the European ATM Master Plan. Towards the workshop's end, the

focus shifted to exploring the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in air navigation planning, contextualizing traffic forecasting, conducting SWOT analyses, and setting objectives. The final day emphasized the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), data management, and the selection of optimal solutions.

If you read the newsletter in a digital format, make sure to watch the video from this activity [here](#).



The 14th SARI Steering Committee Meeting and the 2nd Project Management Board Meeting

MALDIVES, 18-19 SEPTEMBER 2023

On 18th September, the 14th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the South Asia Regional Initiative (SARI) was held in Bandos Island of Maldives. The meeting was attended by delegations from six SARI member states, the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II Team, and the SARI Coordinator.

During this meeting, a brief recap of the previous SARI SCM was addressed, and the key accomplishments of the SARI Workplan were highlighted. The participants also discussed the primary challenges and obstacles encountered by the team during the implementation. The SARI member states, in their feedback, also expressed their appreciation for the diligent efforts put in by the SARI team and extended their gratitude for the support provided by both the SARI team and the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II. Additionally, they shared their success stories and offered their perspectives through comprehensive reviews of the SARI activities within the region. They emphasized the importance of continuing the SARI activities in the region to promote safe-

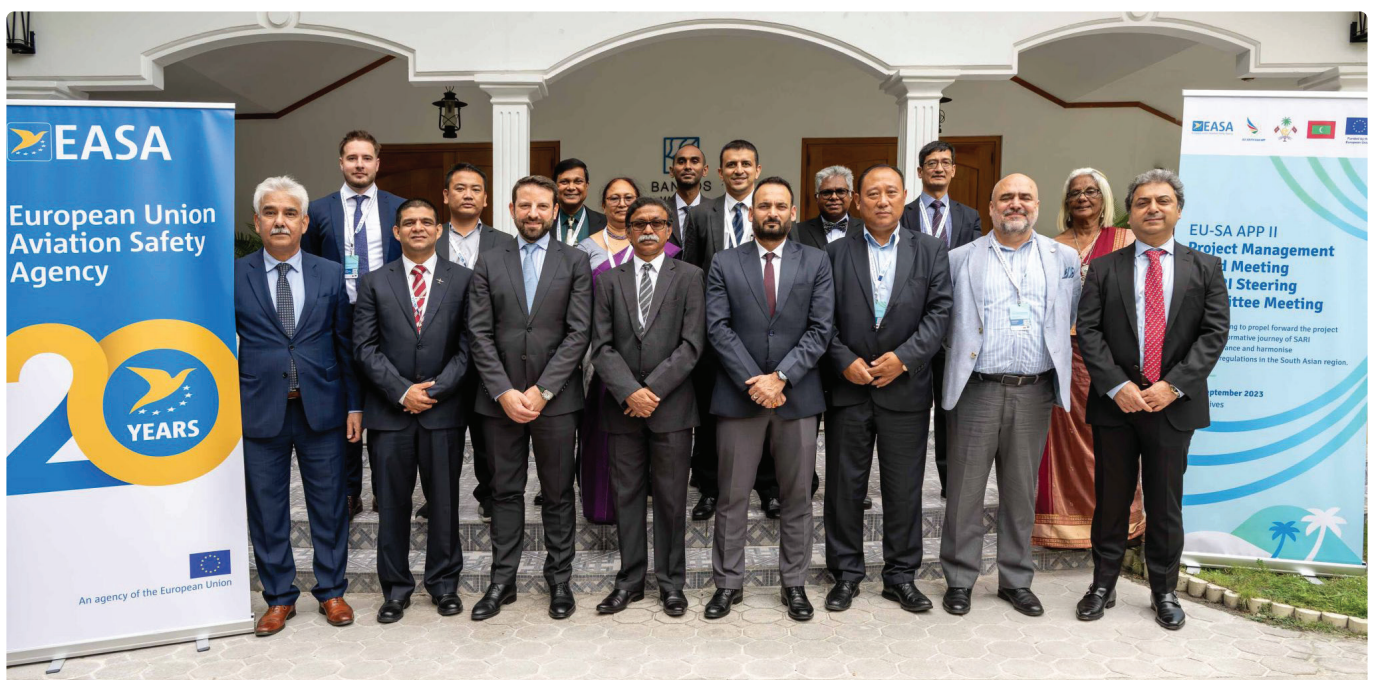
ty and a broader understanding of the EU regulation. A discussion about the future prospects and sustainability of the SARI has been brought up, as well. The member states agreed to collaborate even more closely and develop a comprehensive roadmap for the future.

Toward the event's conclusion, the participants appointed Mr. Abdulla Mohamed, from the Maldives CAA, to the position of the SARI Chairman, and Mr. Rayhan Wannappa, from the CAA of Sri Lanka, as the SARI Vice Chairman.

On 19th September 2023, the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II held a very fruitful project management board meeting with all 7 member states in attendance and representatives from

the Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan. The discussions were focused on approving the workplan and hearing the feedback from each state as well as the indication of the requested support from the project for the future.

We are pleased to announce that the workplan has been endorsed by the states, and we are looking forward to working together to achieve our goals. If you read the newsletter in a digital format, make sure to watch the video from this activity [here](#).





ENVIRONMENT MATTERS IN AVIATION

EU & South Asia working together towards a greener and more sustainable aviation

SRI LANKA, 16-20 OCTOBER 2023

In October, we held a regional workshop in Sri Lanka from our Environment Matters in Aviation series. This one-week workshop was delivered by the project's experts Africa Abajas, Mark Latimer, Maria de la Rica and Ted Elliff, who provided capacity building and support to focal points from aviation authorities and relevant organizations involved in CORSIA implementation and in the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and State Action Plans (SAP) in the South Asian States.

The meeting comprised of approx. 70 participants and was opened with the participation of the Hon. Minister of Ports, Naval and Aviation of Sri Lanka, Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva and Mr. Lars Bredal, Deputy Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union in Sri Lanka.

As a continuation of the successful workshop on SAF held in India in March 2023, the workshop included sessions to further assist participants in learning about the role and challenges related to the development and deployment of sustainable aviation fuels. The workshop provided updates on CORSIA with a special focus on understanding offsetting requirements and facilitated the understanding of the importance role of State Action Plans and how to develop/update them.

As part of the opening ceremony hosted at the premises of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka, The Sustainable Future Group (SFG) has been recognized as the Sri Lankan Verification Body and received the certificate from the National Accreditation Body of Sri Lanka (SLAB). This came as a follow-up

to the witness audit, conducted earlier in August 2023 in Male, that served as the final step in the CORSIA Accreditation process for SFG to become a recognized Sri Lankan Verification Body. Supported by the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II, this accreditation ensured that SFG meets the CORSIA accreditation standards and the requirements set by the SLAB.

By achieving this accreditation, SFG will now appear as a CORSIA-accredited Verification Body in the International Civil Aviation Organization corresponding document and will play a pivotal role in verifying CORSIA Emission Reports within the aviation industry.



2nd EU-Asia Symposium on UAS/UAM

SINGAPORE, 7-10 NOVEMBER 2023

The second edition of the EU-Asia Symposium on UAS/UAM was held in Singapore, where, during the span of 4 days, over 130 experts from various fields gathered to discuss and tackle the common regulatory and operational challenges to integrate drones and air taxis into the aviation system in a safe manner.

The participation of Ms. Maria Rueda, Strategy and Safety Management Director of EASA, and Mr. Han Kok Juan, Director General the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS), added value to this high-level symposium. With a wide variety of speakers from regulatory bodies, industry, academia, and other areas from the civil aviation sector, over 40 speakers participated in the extensive exchanges covering:

- UAS and UAM Regulatory Development and VTOL Certification
- Approaches to UTM And BVLOS Use Cases
- Building a Sustainable Innovative Air Mobility (IAM) Hub
- Industry's Perspectives – UAS Operators
- Readiness of States to Enable UAM Operations in 2024/2025
- Outlook of UAS/UAM Market Development
- UTM Service Providers
- VTOL OEMs, Leasing Companies and Operators
- Vertiport and Airport Operators
- Entry into Service

During the symposium, participants made an onsite visit to the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) organized by the CAAS to witness the practices and some of the projects developed at the university.

This Symposium was a joint effort organized by EASA through the funding support of the three Aviation Partnership Projects from South, North, and South-East Asia in collaboration with CAAS.





SARI Part 145 Working Group Members meeting

MALDIVES, 19-21 NOVEMBER 2023

The SARI Part 145 Working Group Members Meeting in Male, Maldives was held to discuss the latest amendment to EASA Part 145 and to integrate the amendments to the existing SARI Part 145. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate the amendments and discuss the importance of their integration into the national rules of the member states. Once the WGMs agree, the amendments are forwarded to each member state for adoption.

One of the latest amendments discussed at length was the inclusion of Safety Management Systems in AMOs. Ms. Nadia Konzaly, SARI expert, delivered the WGM meeting. The processes and tools for implementing amendments were also discussed at length during the activity, and the importance of a cross-reference matrix for ICAO/EASA rules was also highlighted during the event. The CAAs, industry, and the SARI team participated in this insightful meeting.



The month of December 2023 saw three successful SARI activities in Sri Lanka, supported by the EU - South Asia Aviation Partnership Project II



SARI OPS Regulation Development Workshop

Sri Lanka, 11-13 December 2023

On request of the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka (CAASL), SARI organized onsite OPS Regulation Development Workshop between 11-13 December to review the progress and address challenges in developing Parts CAT, ORO, and SPA regulations. The event was delivered by the SARI PEL and OPS Expert, Peter Wilczek, and covered the EU Aviation Safety Rule Structure, Principles, and Amendments. It educated the officials on Operations Requirements, and discussions included Project and Milestone Plans, Stakeholder Definitions, Point of Contact Designations, and Air Ops applicability for CAASL.



SARI Part M Working Group Members meeting

Sri Lanka, 13-15 December 2023

Part M Working Group Members Meeting, which was held in Sri Lanka between 13-15 December and delivered by SARI Expert, Asmir Kruhovic, was aimed at updating and revising Airworthiness regulations and realigning the Air regulations of the SARI Member States (MS) with the latest revisions and updates in line with the EASA regulations. The revisions and amendments introduced by EASA in the Part M regulations added immense significance to this assembly. The event presented a pivotal opportunity for SARI Working Group Members to actively participate in discussions, exchange perspectives on proposed Regulation amendments, and acquire expertise.



SARI Aircrew Regulation Development Workshop

Sri Lanka, 14-20 December 2023

Similarly, to support the CAASL with Aircrew regulations, SARI organized the five-day Aircrew Implementation Visit in Sri Lanka at the CAASL venue, which was delivered between 14-20 December. SARI Expert, Peter Wilczek, assessed CAASL's processes for aligning Implementation Standards with EU standards, including oversight programs, corrective actions, and record-keeping practices and the event served as a crucial platform for active engagement, fostering discussions and seeking expert guidance to enhance the accurate implementation of Aircrew Standards in Sri Lanka.



ATM/ANS Initiative – series of onsite visits

INDIA, BHUTAN AND NEPAL, 12-21 DECEMBER 2023

Wrapping up the project's 2023 activities, our experts, German Meyer, Peder Alber, and Daniel Cruz made onsite visits to India, Bhutan and Nepal with the objectives to understand better the countries context and priorities by experiencing the environment first-hand, and to provide a push to the project's activities by sitting face-to-face, discussing and working together to advance in the different areas.

Throughout the session the experts identified more in detail potential areas of cooperation and harmonization at the South Asian level, through common approaches, tools, and methodologies, with the goal of establishing a regional ANS master plan. The experts proposed practical tools and processes that will help the states to advance further with the experts' guidance and support, scheduler to continue over the next months to foster collaboration and advancements in the aviation sector in the region and with the EU.

The much needed dialogues on air navigation planning, fatigue risk management for ATCOs, and safety oversight were held, bringing the valuable insights during the 2 weeks onsite. The project will now look at the findings and deliver the necessary support through the upcoming series of regional workshops planned in the first half of 2024, starting in late January 2024 in Sri Lanka!

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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