



## **EUROCONTROL and ACI EUROPE sign Memorandum of Understanding, signalling enhanced co-operation and joint commitment to aviation's successful and sustainable future**

**Brussels, 27 January 2022: Eamonn Brennan, Director General of EUROCONTROL, and Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE, have today signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding to enhance their co-operation as the two organisations work towards European aviation's future-facing stability, safety, and sustainability.**

With a long history of successful collaboration in many areas of mutual concern, the intergovernmental organisation representing 41 Member States and 2 Comprehensive Agreement States, and the trade association bringing together all of Europe's airports share many commonalities as aviation moves into a new chapter – in particular a shared focus on operational efficiency and sustainability.

The Memorandum, which replaces an existing agreement dating from 2008, builds a framework of co-operation around 2 pillars:

- **Efficient air transport** through increased integration between operations at and around airport platforms and Air Traffic Management, moving to collaborative decision making.

This is essential to have operations on time and make better use of existing capacity and unlock latent capacity - both on the ground and in the air. Such integration will ultimately result in a one-on-one information exchange between the Network Operation Plan (NOP) and Airport Operation Plan (AOP). It will be delivered through the continued cooperation between ACI EUROPE together with its member airports, and the EUROCONTROL Network Manager as well as through the continued participation of EUROCONTROL in ACI EUROPE's Technical, Operations & Safety Committee (TOSC)<sup>1</sup>. The network functions, delivered with the support of the Network Manager, form a key pillar of the EU Single European Sky project.

- **Sustainable air transport**, through the continued development and outreach of *Airport Carbon Accreditation*, the global standard for carbon management and reduction at airports, as well as the continued rollout of EUROCONTROL's *Collaborative Environmental Management (CEM)*, which provides process guidance

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<sup>1</sup> ACI EUROPE's TOSC is a unique pool of expertise, bringing together the executives of more than 50 European airports in charge of airport operations. The Committee is currently chaired by Aeroporti di Roma.

through which airports are able to reduce their environmental impact in close cooperation with their operational stakeholders.

**Olivier Jankovec** said: *"For Europe's airports, recovering from COVID-19 and the imperative to 'Build Back Better' means chasing every opportunity to increase their operational efficiency and reduce their environmental footprint. Over the past years, EUROCONTROL has come to play an increasingly important role in supporting not just airports but the whole aviation eco-system in that direction. The challenges we face in progressing further and the interconnected nature of aviation means enhanced collaboration and integration are key. This is precisely what this new agreement between ACI EUROPE and EUROCONTROL is about. We look forward to our continued collaboration."*

**Eamonn Brennan** said: *"Flights were down 44% last year across Europe to 6.2 million, whilst at the same time passenger numbers were down 59% - a loss of 1.4 billion. EUROCONTROL is focused on supporting European aviation and is working closely with airports to deliver enhanced operational efficiency and sustainable solutions as we recover from the pandemic. Time and again our organisations have shown that working together in areas as diverse as innovation, R&D, urban air mobility, and optimising performance at all levels, reaps even greater benefits for aviation. We look forward to strengthening our collaboration even further for the benefit of the wider aviation network as a whole."*

**###ENDS###**

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**ACI EUROPE** is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 500 airports in 55 countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe. Air transport supports 13.5 million jobs, generating €886 billion in European economic activity (4.4% of GDP). In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.

**EUROCONTROL** is a pan-European, civil-military organisation dedicated to supporting European aviation. As Europe's Network Manager, we play a central coordination role, using our technical expertise to support Member States and a wide range of stakeholders (air navigation service providers, civil and military airspace users, airports and aircraft/equipment manufacturers). We strive to make European aviation safe, efficient, scalable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable, partnering with the European

Union to make the Single European Sky a reality. EUROCONTROL has 41 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. EUROCONTROL has Comprehensive Agreements with Morocco and Israel.