Second Inter-Regional Co-Ordination Meeting
Asia/Pacific/Middle East/Europe/North Atlantic
(IRCM/2)

Paris, France, 11-13 September 2006

Summary Report

1.   Introduction

1.1   The Second Inter-Regional Co-Ordination Meeting (IRCM/2) on Interface Issues between the Asia/Pacific (APAC), European and North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) and Middle East (MID) Regional Offices of ICAO was held at the EUR/NAT Office in Paris on 11 to 13 September 2006.

1.2   The MID Office was represented by Mr Mohamed Khonji, Regional Director; and Mr Mohamed Smaoui, Regional Officer AIS/MET. The ASIA/PAC Office was represented by Mr Andrew Tiede, Regional Officer ATM. The EUR/NAT Office was represented by Mr Karsten Theil, Regional Director; Mr Robert Kruger, Deputy Regional Director; Mr Jacques Vanier, Regional Officer ATM; Mr George Firican, Mr Victor Kourenkov and Mr Elkhan Nahmadov, Regional Officers ANS Implementation; Mr Guillermo Vega, Regional Officer MET/AIS; and Mrs Nikki Goldschmid and Mrs Patricia Cuff, Technical Assistants.

1.3   Mr Karsten Theil, Regional Director EUR/NAT, served as the moderator of the discussions.

1.4   The Action Plan of the Meeting is in **Appendix A**.

2.   Implementation of RVSM in the interface areas

2.1   In view of information provided concerning the situation in Afghanistan and as RVSM implementation in Afghanistan could not be envisaged before 2008, the Meeting agreed that efforts should first be concentrated on assisting Turkmenistan in the implementation of RVSM within Ashkhabad FIR. It was agreed that the EUR/NAT Office would obtain updated information from Turkmenistan[1] and a decision on a new date of implementation would be made at the next Combined Meetings of the EANPG Air Traffic Management Group and Route Development Group – Eastern Part of the ICAO EUR Region (ATMGE/RDGE/5), scheduled for the first week October 2006. It was noted that future steps in terms of review of ATS route network and review of implementation of VSAT etc. by mid-October 2006 would also be considered.

2.2   It was agreed that following this step, the EUR/NAT Office would take the initiative to convene a Meeting of States[2] in order to co-ordinate the RVSM implementation in Ashkhabad FIR between Turkmenistan and the adjacent States. Such co-ordination would include the revision of Letters of Agreement.

2.3   The following details were agreed with regard to the Meeting of States:

    a)   Composition: Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, FAA

    b)   Date: 3 days in March 2007 (to be confirmed)

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[1] Action IRCM/2-01
[2] Action IRCM/2-02

   c)   Venue: Baku, Azerbaijan – alternatively Paris, France

   d)   Languages: Russian, English

   e)   Other issues to be discussed after coordination between the Regional Offices:

- Civil/military coordination

- Minimum En-Route Altitude in Kabul FIR

- SSR Codes issues

2.4   The Meeting agreed that, with respect to further assistance to Afghanistan, as a first step, the EUR/NAT Office would contact NATO[3] to obtain more information concerning better civil/military co-operation.

2.5   Finally under this agenda item, the Meeting noted that coordinated efforts were needed in the implementation of RVSM in interface area between the Russian Federation and States in APAC Region. Coordination with China, Japan and Mongolia would be required by 2009/2010. It was agreed that the need for another Meeting of States for this purpose would be assessed at a later stage.

3.   Harmonization of APAC, MID and EUR Regional Air Navigation Plans (ANP)

Review of air traffic flows from South-East Asia to Europe through Afghanistan and Indian airspaces

3.1   The Meeting noted that there was a need for the APAC Office to coordinate with Pakistan[4] to lower the minimum en-route altitude of ATS route P628/G792 to FL 300 in Pakistan FIRs and the MID Office to coordinate with Afghanistan[5] to also ensure MEA of ATS route G792 in Kabul FIR to be not above FL 300, ensuring alignment with the lower limit of P628.

Review of ATS route network

3.2   The Meeting agreed that the Asia and Pacific ATS Route Catalogue was a good idea but that current resources did not enable a similar catalogue to be developed in the EUR or MID regions. It was agreed that the EUR/NAT and MID Offices would review and coordinate the related routes[6] from the Catalogue which had been presented at the Meeting.

3.3   Additionally, it was agreed that all offices would ensure more specific information when coordinating routes related to interface regions[7].

3.4   In order to increase capacity for the 2008 Olympic Games, Kazakhstan had proposed the following routes and had requested ICAO's assistance in coordinating with China:

   a)   G/UG267 – Balkhash - BAMAN 4517N 08237E - Urumqi; and

   b)   G/UG270 – Almaty - TIRBA 4335N 07729E - SEDAN 4351N 08034E –Urumqi.

3.5   It was agreed that the APAC Office would initiate coordination with China[8] as a first step and inform the EUR/NAT Office about the progress.

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[3] Action IRCM/2-03
[4] Action IRCM/2-04
[5] Action IRCM/2-05
[6] Action IRCM/2-06
[7] Action IRCM/2-07

3.6   The Meeting also noted the request from the EANPG Route Development Group – Eastern Part of the ICAO EUR Region (RDGE) for assistance to coordinate the following route with Iran. It was noted that both Azerbaijan and Turkey were ready to implement this route.

> Agri – Crossing point on Turkey/Iran boundary - Crossing point on Iran/Azerbaijan boundary - Nakhchivan

3.7   It was agreed that the MID Office would inform the EUR/NAT Office[9] about the progress of coordination with Iran.

Restructuring of the Regional Air Navigation Plans

3.8   The Meeting noted that the existing format and content of the Regional ANPs with regard to description of ATS Routes were based on the assumption that a "from – to" supporting system of navigational aids on the ground was required. Therefore, the requirements in the ATM Operational Concept and the Global ANP with regard to major traffic flows, homogenous areas, dynamic route management, flexible use of airspace, required navigation performance, area navigation etc. would not be supported by the Regional ANPs in their current format. The Meeting agreed to submit to D/ANB a proposal for restructuring the Regional ANPs.[10]

4.   SSR codes and Originating Region Code Assignment Method (ORCAM) principles

4.1   The Meeting noted that inter-regional coordination of SSR code allocation was an issue that needed urgent attention, especially between MID and EUR Regions, and was of the opinion that the MID Region, in order to solve acute problems, should, as matter of urgency, exploit the basic principles of ORCAM implementation.

4.2   The Meeting agreed that the 8th MIDANPIRG ATM/SAR/AIS Sub-Group meeting in Oman in November 2006 would be the first step to discuss the methodology being used in the EUR Region. Through the EUR/NAT Office, EUROCONTROL would be invited to attend this meeting. The meeting would explore the way in which the ORCAM principles may be used in the MID Region, including the establishment of Participating Areas (PAs) in the MID Region.[11]

4.3   The Meeting supported a recommendation that the transmission of the SSR code in departure messages should cease; noting that in the age of long haul aircraft that can cover continents, transmission of SSR codes in these messages could also cause other systems to activate FPLs on the transmitted code, which will not be in accordance with SSR code allocations for that region. It was noted that MID Office had initiated necessary action in this regard.

5.   Improper handling of FPLs

5.1   The Meeting noted concerns raised by the MID Office related to the improper handling of Flight Plan (FPLs), including missing FPLs and missing letter 'W' in field 10. It was requested that statistics and concrete examples be provided[12] to the EUR/NAT and APAC Offices to allow analysis.

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[8] Action IRCM/2-08
[9] Action IRCM/2-09
[10] Action IRCM/2-10
[11] Action IRCM/2-11
[12] Action IRCM/2-12

6. Safety Management related issues

6.1   The Meeting felt that it was a big challenge to make use of all the information that was being gathered from all sources to ensure proper analysis and identification of specific areas which warrant remedial action.

6.2   In particular, in the context of RVSM operations, the Meeting noted that increased reporting indicated that the mechanism that is being used to assess compliance with the RVSM target level of safety did not represent the causal factors for the increase in measured risks. This was a common problem faced by the three Offices. The Meeting felt that a better mechanism was urgently required.

6.3   The Meeting exchanged points of view on the implementation of Safety Management Systems (SMS) within States. It noted the activities going on, (workshops and training), as requested by the DGCA Conference held in Montreal in March 2006. The Meeting noted that the possible establishment of a Regional Safety Management System in the NAT Region would be discussed at the NAT SPG Implementation Management Group (IMG) meeting in November 2006, and it was agreed that the EUR/NAT Office would inform the APAC and MID Offices about the progress made.[13]

7. HQ Workshop on Business Planning, Global ANP and GPIs

7.1   The Meeting reviewed the ALLPIRG Conclusion 5/1 and noted that the APAC Office had an introduction from C/RAO on the software tool for business planning and that the MID and EUR/NAT Offices had not received such an introduction. It was however emphasised that all Regional Offices still required detailed training by Headquarters on business planning at the regional level as they were not sufficiently equipped to address the requirements. It was agreed that the EUR/NAT Regional Director would bring forward the need that such workshops take place very soon.[14]

8. Co-operation on ICARD system development

Five Letter Name Codes (5LNCs)

8.1   The Meeting noted that the MID Office was utilizing the ICARD system and that the APAC Office would utilise the same system[15] for the management of 5LNCs. It was noted that the EUR/NAT Office would provide the APAC Office with full assistance[16] to ensure smooth transition in the use of the system. The three Offices would now be using the ICARD system.

Route designators

8.2   The Meeting noted the need to develop a supporting tool/data base for the allocation of ATS route designators and agreed that the EUR/NAT Office would take the initiative to develop the regional requirements for such a tool, in cooperation with the APAC and MID Regional Offices and EUROCONTROL, based on ICARD experience.[17]

9. Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group (TRASAS)

9.1   The Meeting noted the preparations to establish the Trans-Regional Airspace and Supporting ATM Systems Steering Group (TRASAS) in follow-up of the request by the NAT SPG (NAT SPG/42

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[13] Action IRCM/2-13
[14] Action IRCM/2-14
[15] Action IRCM/2-15
[16] Action IRCM/2-16
[17] Action IRCM/2-17

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Summary of Discussions, paragraph 1.2.12 refers). It was also noted that EUR/NAT was following closely the development in order to determine the optimum time to convene the first meeting of TRASAS, and it was agreed that arrangements for TRASAS/1 would be coordinated between the EUR/NAT and APAC Offices.[18]

10.   Restructuring of Regional Supplementary Procedures (SUPPs)

10.1   The Meeting was informed about the work done by the EUR/NAT Office on the restructuring of the Regional Supplementary Procedures (SUPPs) (Doc 7030) in follow-up to ALLPIRG Conclusion 5/18. It was noted that a reordering of the material was almost completed and that the applicable SUPPs had been transmitted to Headquarters for preview, and that work on the alignment of the areas of applicability of the SUPPs with those of the Regional ANPs would be continued.

10.2   It was also noted that the EUR/NAT Office would inform future regional meetings[19] about the expected re-alignment, and it was agreed that the three Offices would coordinate closely in the further development.

11.   Regional Monitoring Agencies (RMA)

11.1   Information was exchanged with regard to the regional monitoring functions in the Regions concerned, and the Meeting expressed its appreciation of EUROCONTROL's full support and assistance to the work of the MID RMA.

11.2   The Meeting noted that, in follow-up to ALLPIRG Conclusion 5/12, the EUR/NAT Office would host the first RMA meeting[20] in the first quarter of 2007, the primary aim being to finalise the RMA Handbook and address the ALLPIRG Conclusion. Other issues that might be usefully added to the agenda were discussed, such as financing mechanisms and harmonisation of working methods and arrangements. It was emphasised that the EUR/NAT Office was not assuming the role as the global RMA coordinator and that the need for further activities, possibly including the establishment of an RMA forum to progress the work, would be determined at the first meeting.

11.3   The Meeting also emphasised the need for the development of global requirements for future performance monitoring in order to support regional or sub-regional Safety Management Systems. It was agreed that the EUR/NAT Regional Director would inform D/ANB about the need for work in this area to be initiated soon.[21]

12.   Data Link Harmonisation Steering Group (DLSG)

12.1   The Meeting noted the on-going work on harmonisation of data link implementation. It was noted that the EUR/NAT Office was expected to convene the 3rd meeting of the Data Link Harmonisation Steering Group (DLSG) in the first quarter of 2007, and that participation from States in the APAC Region was considered to be beneficial.

12.2   The APAC Office was invited to provide details of data link activities and to coordinate APAC representation at the next DLSG meeting.[22]

12.3   In this context, the Meeting noted the status of the amalgamation of the Pacific and North Atlantic FANS 1/A data link procedures in the International Data Link Manual (IDLM).

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[18] Action IRCM/2-18
[19] Action IRCM/2-19
[20] Action IRCM/2-20
[21] Action IRCM/2-21
[22] Action IRCM/2-22

13. Global AIS Congress

13.1 The Meeting noted the outcome of the Global AIS Congress and the information that the final report prepared by the consortium of the Global AIS Congress will be presented to the Air Navigation Commission some time in autumn 2006.

13.2 The Meeting was of the view that follow-up action on the AIS Congress recommendations has to be initiated as soon as possible and expected that guidance would be provided by the ANC. It was agreed that close cooperation and exchange of information between all concerned would be maintained.

14. WGS-84 implementation

14.1 The Meeting noted that the incomplete implementation of WGS-84 in some States constituted a safety concern that had, in some cases, been recorded as safety deficiencies. The Meeting agreed to pursue the issue at the PIRG level[23] and noted that the Unified Strategy to Overcome Safety Related Deficiencies might provide a well-suited mechanism to deal with it.

15. Volcanic Ash exercise

15.1 The Meeting noted the work that has been done so far at the regional level in the development of contingency plans. It recognised that close coordination between the APAC and EUR/NAT Offices was essential.

15.2 The Meeting agreed that the EUR/NAT Office would get more information from the Russian Federation, using the opportunity of attendance at METG/16, concerning monitoring of active volcanoes in the interface with the APAC Region (Kamchatka, Kurile Islands, and Sakhalinsk) and ensure coordination with the APAC Office. [24]

15.3 The Meeting noted the importance that has been identified by Headquarters regarding studies that will enable a more precise prediction of spread of ash. The Meeting strongly supported that this work be done to support Strategic Objective D – Efficiency and looked forward to future improvement of contingency plans.

16. Special Civil/Military Coordination Meeting (SCMCM)

16.1 The Meeting noted the information from the MID Office regarding this subject which was held in Sana'a, Yemen, 18-19 June 2006, and welcomed the excellent initiative regarding civil military coordination. It was agreed that all offices would keep the situation under survey.

17. Outcome of APANPIRG/17

17.1 The Meeting noted and appreciated the informative summary provided by the APAC Office on the outcome of APANPIRG/17. It was agreed that all offices would endeavour to provide assistance to each other on the various issues addressed to the extent possible.

17.2 The Meeting was informed about the MID Office initiative to organise[25] a South-West Asia ATS Coordination Group (SWACG) meeting in 2007. It was recommended that the informal Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean ATS Coordination Group (ASIOACG) be incorporated within the SWACG forum.

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[23] Action IRCM/2-23
[24] Action IRCM/2-24
[25] Action IRCM/2-25

17.3   The Meeting noted the APANPIRG Decision 17/10 to establish the APANPIRG Regional Performance Framework Task Force that would develop a proposal/framework for consideration by APANPIRG/18 for incorporating the performance based approach into the work programme of APANPIRG and its contributory bodies. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force were provided for inspiration.

18.   ICAO Exploratory Meeting on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)

18.1   The Meeting noted the outcome of the above mentioned meeting and warmly welcomed the initiative. The Meeting also noted that the question of accommodating UAVs within non-segregated airspace was given a high profile in the development of the New Generation Air Traffic Systems (NGATS) in the USA and Single European Sky ATM Research (SESAR) in the EU Member States, thus emphasising the need for ICAO to develop guidelines of global applicability.

19.   Olympic Games 2008 Beijing, China

19.1   The Meeting noted that the EUR/NAT Office would provide the APAC Office[26] with all necessary documentation pertaining to the preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece, which could provide background information and provide anticipated preparations for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

19.2   In this context, the Meeting noted that Kazakhstan had already requested assistance to cooperate with China to work on increased capacity in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games (paragraph 3.4 refers).

20.   Future work programme

20.1   The Meeting agreed that the 3rd Inter-Regional Coordination Meeting (IRCM/3) would be held at the MID Office at a date and time to be coordinated when the need was determined.

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[26] Action IRCM/2-26

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APPENDIX A – IRCM/2 ACTION PLAN

(paragraph 1.4 refers)

IRCM/2 Action #	Strategic Objectives	Agreed Actions	Paragraph reference	To be initiated by	Target date
IRCM/2-01	D	Update at ATMGE/RDGE/5 (October 2006) concerning implementation of RVSM in Turkmenistan	2.1	EUR/NAT	05 Oct 2006
IRCM/2-02	D	Meeting of States (MID/EUR) Concerning implementation of RVSM in Ashkhabad FIR (Turkmenistan)	2.2	EUR/NAT in coordination with MID	Dec 2006
IRCM/2-03	A, D	Contact NATO on civil/military cooperation in Afghanistan	2.4	EUR/NAT	26 Sep 2006
IRCM/2-04	D	Lowering of MEA on P628/G792 in Pakistan FIRs	3.1	APAC	Dec 2006
IRCM/2-05	D	Lowering of MEA on G792 in Kabul FIR	3.1	MID	Dec 2006
IRCM/2-06	D	Review routes in APAC ATS Route Catalogue relevant to respective regions	3.2	EUR/NAT MID	Oct 2006
IRCM/2-07	D	Provide specific information on routes to be coordinated in interface regions	3.3	APAC EUR/NAT MID	On going
IRCM/2-08	D	Coordinate route proposals from Kazakhstan with China	3.4, 3.5	APAC	Dec 2006
IRCM/2-09	D	Coordinate route proposal from Azerbaijan and Turkey with Iran	3.6, 3.7	MID	Feb 2007
IRCM/2-10	D	Submit proposal for restructuring of Regional ANPs to D/ANB	3.8	EUR/NAT	Sep 2006
IRCM/2-11	D	Discuss inter-regional coordination of SSR code allocation at the MIDANPIRG 8th ATM/SAR/AIS sub-group meeting (Oman, November 2006) EUROCONTROL to be invited to attend this meeting.	4.1, 4.2	MID in coordination with EUR/NAT	Nov 2006 TBD
IRCM/2-12	D	Provide statistics and examples concerning missing FPLs and missing letter 'W' in field 10	5.1	MID	Feb 2007
IRCM/2-13	A	Discuss possible establishment of a Regional Safety Management System in the NAT Region at NAT IMG in November 2006 Keep other Offices informed of outcome.	6.3	EUR/NAT	Nov 2006 Dec 2006
IRCM/2-14	D	Request that workshops on Business Planning, Global ANP and GPIs be urgently organised	7.1	EUR/NAT	Sep 2006
IRCM/2-15	D	Coordinate with EUR/NAT and EUROCONTROL to commence use of ICARD 5LNC database	8.1	APAC	Sep 2006
IRCM/2-16	D	Provide full assistance and training on use of ICARD 5LNC database	8.1	EUR/NAT	Oct 2006
IRCM/2-17	D	Establish specific requirements for database tool for allocation of ATS route designators	8.2	EUR/NAT in coordination with APAC and MID	Oct 2006
IRCM/2-18	D	Coordinate timely arrangements for convening of TRASAS/1	9.1	EUR/NAT APAC	First quarter 2007
IRCM/2-19	D	Coordinate and finalise re-organisation of MID/ASIA SUPPs and realignment of areas of application	10.2	EUR/NAT in coordination with APAC and MID	First quarter 2007

IRCM/2 Action #	Strategic Objectives	Agreed Actions	Paragraph reference	To be initiated by	Target date
IRCM/2-20	A	Host first RMA Meeting in first quarter 2007 to finalise RMA Handbook and address ALLPIRG Conclusion 5/12	11.2	EUR/NAT	First quarter 2007
IRCM/2-21	A	Inform D/ANB of need for development of global requirements for future performance monitoring in order to support regional or sub-regional Safety Management Systems	11.3	EUR/NAT	Sep 2006
IRCM/2-22	D	Provide details of data link activities and coordinate APAC representation at the DLSG/3 meeting	12.2	APAC in coordination with EUR/NAT	Dec 2006
IRCM/2-23	A, D	Address issue of incomplete implementation of WGS-84 at PIRGS	14.1	APAC EUR/NAT MID	2007 Dec 2006 Feb 2007
IRCM/2-24	A	Coordinate information from Russian Federation concerning monitoring of active volcanoes in the interface with the APAC Region (Kamchatka, Kurile Islands, Sakhalinskand Sakhalinsk)	15.2	EUR/NAT in coordination with APAC	Sep 2006
IRCM/2-25	D	Organise next meeting of SWACG in 2007	17.2	MID in coordination with APAC	2007
IRCM/2-26	D	Provide documentation pertaining to the preparations for the 2004 Olympic Games held in Athens, Greece to APAC office	19.1	EUR/NAT	Sep 2006

– **END** –