

**CAPSCA EUR/MID/11-SUMMARY REPORT**



**INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION**

**COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
EVENTS IN CIVIL AVIATION  
(CAPSCA)**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE JOINT CAPSCA EUR/NAT  
AND MID REGIONAL OFFICES (CAPSCA EUR-MID/11)**

*Cologne, 25-26 April 2024*

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**1. PLACE AND DURATION**

1.1 The eleventh meeting of the Joint Europe and North Atlantic and Middle East Regional Office of the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA EUR/MID/11) was held in Cologne from 25 to 26 April 2024.

1.2 The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) graciously hosted the meeting.

1.3 The meeting was actively supported by WHO Headquarters, WHO EURO, WHO EMRO, ECDC, EASA, and FAA

**2. OPENING**

2.1 Mr Eduard Ciofu, Deputy Flight Standards Director from EASA opened the meeting welcomed the participants and underlined the work of EASA in this area. Dr. Johanna Jordaan, the Chief of the Aviation Medicine Section at ICAO HQ and the CAPSCA Program Manager, welcomed the participants on behalf of ICAO and clarified the overall objectives of the meeting.

**3. ATTENDANCE**

3.1 The meeting was attended by eighty-one (81) participants from thirty-one (31) States and eleven (11) International Organizations and industry.

**4. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT**

4.1 Dr. Khalil M. Khalil, the CAPSCA-MID Chairman and the Head of Aviation Medicine of the Jordanian Civil Aviation Regulatory Commission (CARC), and Mr. Johan SKJAL, CAPSCA EUR Chairman and the Chief Adviser of the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency (Traficom) chaired the meeting.

4.2 Dr. Johanna Jordaan, the Chief of the Aviation Medicine Section at ICAO HQ and the CAPSCA Program Manager, supported the meeting.

4.3 Mr. Sarantis Poulimenakos, the Regional Officer for Air Navigation Services/Implementation and the CAPSCA EUR Regional Coordinator along with Mr. Mohamed Iheb Hamdi, the Regional Officer for Aerodromes and Ground Aids and the CAPSCA MID Regional Coordinator ICAO MID Office acted as the Secretaries of the meeting.

**5. AGENDA/PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION**

5.1 The Agenda/Program of the Meeting, included mainly:

- Agenda Item 1: Review of Conclusions of CAPSCA EUR-MID/10 and CAPSCA global updates
- Agenda Item 2: WHO updates
- Agenda Item 3: WHO and ICAO Public Health Emergency (PHE) requirements
- Agenda Item 4: ECDC updates- ECDC Workshop outcomes
- Agenda Item 5: Updates of activities and feedback from CAPSCA States and Key Partner
- Agenda Item 7: EASA updates-MESAFE outcomes

- Agenda Item 8: Round table discussions:
  - Implementation support and training activities for States
  - Crisis management during the pandemic-Preparedness for future PHE

5.2 The meeting's documentation including the final work programme and presentations are available on both the ICAO MID and ICAO EUR/NAT websites:

- [ICAO MID Website: CAPSCA/11 Meeting](#)
- [ICAO EURNAT Website: CAPSCA/ 11 Meeting](#)

## 6. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

6.1 The meeting started with a review of the CAPSCA/10 Meeting recommendations and reiterated that States should coordinate with all agencies locally involved in the implementation of the Council Aviation Recovery Task Force (CART) III as well as the High Level Conference on Covid-19 (HLCC) Recommendations.

### **States Deliverables**

6.2 The meeting noted with appreciation the States Feedback on their Aviation Preparedness Plans. Egypt, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands and UAE provided their experience in relation with public health management in Aviation Sectors, as follows:

- Egypt: Egypt Experience on PHM
- Jordan: Preparedness Plan and PHE
- Kazakhstan: CAPSCA at the National Level
- Netherlands: The development of a national health emergency plan
- UAE: Protocol of Advancing Global Aviation Safety and Public Health Resilience

### **Global /Regional Developments**

6.3 The meeting was appraised of the global updates in terms of the way forward and ICAO/States expectations about the CAPSCA Programme. ICAO HQ highlighted the HLCC recommendations and A41 resolutions related to future CAPSCA work program including among others the development of an Aviation Health Plan, of new PANS-Health, a CAPSCA governance framework and Terms of Reference. The meeting was also informed about the establishment and the expected deliverables of the five new CAPSCA working Groups.

6.4 The meeting noted the updates emanating from WHO about the Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) relating to Points of Entry, and WHO-ICAO MoU and work plan needs from WHO perspective.

6.5 In addition, WHO EURO and EMRO provided with an overview of recent regional activities and initiatives, reporting on airport designation vis-à-vis the status of contingency plans State Party self-assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) and coordination between aviation and public health authorities.

6.6 The meeting noted the new rules for traveling to Europe are changing as of 2024. Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, which supports EU and Schengen countries in the management of the EU's external borders and the fight against cross-border crime, explained the new process concerning the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) specifically in relation screening rules for high epidemic risks.

6.7 Two round tables were also included in the works of the meeting. During the first day the topic of the Panel discussion was: Resilience and Preparedness- Grasp the momentum, monitored by ECDC. The second day topic was about Implementation support and training activities for States, monitored by WHO Euro. The outcomes of these discussions are included in the below meeting recommendations

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations from the CAPSCA EUR MID 11 meeting are as follows:

7.1 The meeting recognized the need for the CAPSCA Programme to adapt to the new aviation reality triggered by COVID-19 and emphasized the importance of global continuous support for the recently established CAPSCA Working Groups.

7.2 The meeting agreed to enhance the new CAPSCA structure at global and regional levels and emphasized the importance of active interaction with State focal persons from both Public Health Authorities and Civil Aviation sectors.

7.3 At the state level, the meeting emphasized the importance of coordination between aviation stakeholders and Public Health Authorities and highlighted the need for CAPSCA to focus raising awareness for these sectors through capacity building activities and crisis management exercises/drills.

7.4 The meeting recommended that CAPSCA experts continue to support the review of Facilitation Standards and Recommended Practices related to Public Health Events and collaborate with Facilitation counterparts to enhance HR competency.

7.5 The meeting encouraged States to advocate for the implementation of Facilitation measures relevant to public health events through the CAPSCA program.

7.6 The meeting raised with concern the States low level of requests related to the CAPSCA Technical Assistance Visits that would support and foster the implementation of their public health preparedness and response plans.

7.7 The meeting advised that contact-tracing issues should be further explored. For that purpose, a dedicated joint WHO EURO, EASA, ECDC, ICAO EUR/NAT and MID Project Team should be established. CAPSCA EUR and MID are mandated to proceed with the establishment of the Project Team and report the outcome during the next CAPSCA EUR MID 12.

7.8 The meeting appreciated the support offered by ICAO, WHO, FAA, ECDC and EASA and encouraged States to develop/update/upgrade and share their current tools through the CAPSCA regional networks, such as checklists and templates.

7.9 The joint –interregional CAPSCA EUR-MID meeting is providing an interactive platform to discuss public health issues in the aviation sector and the best way to address them for 71 ICAO States. The meeting encouraged CAPSCA to continue organizing joint CAPSCA EUR MID meetings.

## **8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Encouraging Inter-Regional Exchange**

8.1 The joint CAPSCA EUR/MID meeting is providing an interactive platform to discuss issues and the best way to address them. Future joint meetings should continue and further explore this regional exchange as well as the possibility of organizing cross- regional activities and assessments, in order to optimize the limited resources available.

8.2 The ICAO EUR/NAT and MID ROs will coordinate to establish the dedicated Project Team as mandated in 7.7 above during the second half of 2024.

8.3 The meeting agreed on the organization of a one-day Forum of all CAPSCA Focal Points back-to-back with the upcoming CAPSCA EUR-MID/12 meeting.

8.4 The meeting highlighted that the next Inter Regional CAPSCA Focal Points Forum back-to-back with CAPSCA EUR /MID12 Meeting will be tentatively held in the MID Region. The ICAO MID Region will be coordinating with the potential hosting State and inform EURNAT office accordingly.

8.5 The meeting was informed that CAPSCA EUR is scheduling a technical Workshop for the CAPSCA EUR focal persons during October 2024 at Paris, France.

## **9. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

9.1 Chairpersons expressed ICAO's gratitude to EASA for graciously hosting the meeting and thanked all participants from States, Regional and International Organizations and Industries for their valuable assistance, as well as sharing their experiences and best practices.