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**NOTE D'INFORMATION**

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Destinataire:	délégations
Objet:	Préparation du Conseil provisoire d'Eurocontrol - Note d'information de la Commission

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Une session spéciale du Conseil provisoire d'EUROCONTROL se tiendra le 28 juin 2022 pour élire le nouveau directeur général qui prendra ses fonctions avant la fin 2022.

En vue de la réunion du groupe aviation du 7 juin 2022, les délégations trouveront, en annexe, une note d'information préparée par les services de la Commission afin de faciliter la coordination des États membres de l'Union lors de la session spéciale du Conseil provisoire d'EUROCONTROL.

## Information Note

### Election of a new Director General of Eurocontrol

Prepared by the Commission services in order to facilitate the coordination of the EU Member States for the special session of the Provisional Council of EUROCONTROL on 28 June 2022.

#### Introduction

In December 2021, the Director General of Eurocontrol, Mr Eamonn Brennan, notified the Provisional Council chair that he will not seek the renewal of his appointment when expiring in December 2022. Following this notification, Eurocontrol published on 29 March 2022 a vacancy announcement calling for applications for his replacement (see attached vacancy announcement) before 29 April 2022.

The intention will be to elect a new Director General during a closed special session of the Provisional Council taking place on 28 June 2022, this in order to allow the successful candidate to take office before the end of 2022. Only Members of Eurocontrol are invited to attend this meeting and participate in the voting rounds. The European Union, represented by the Commission, will therefore, given its observer status in Eurocontrol, not formally participate in the selection process where instead the EU Member States are called upon to represent the interest of the Union.

#### Relevance for the Union

The post at issue is of strategic importance for the Union given that Eurocontrol is hosting the appointed Network Manager under the Single European Sky. It follows from the Commission Implementing Decision 2019/709 appointing Eurocontrol as the Network Manager <sup>1</sup> that the appointed Network Manager shall be the Director of the Network Management Directorate of Eurocontrol. This Director is a part of the management board of Eurocontrol, where he reports to the Director General of Eurocontrol. In other words, the Network Manager function under Union law is embedded in the organisational structure of Eurocontrol for which its Director General is responsible.

The Director General is also a voting member of the Network Management Board (see article 4 para 2 of the appointment Decision), which is a Union body pursuant to Article 18 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/123<sup>2</sup>.

Article 6 of the appointment decision requires separation of activities of the Network Manager and Eurocontrol. Despite this separation however, the organisational structure of Eurocontrol and the role of the DG in the NMB means that he is closely involved in decision making required under Union legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> COMMISSION Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/709 of 6 May 2019 on the appointment of the network manager for air traffic management (ATM) network functions of the single European sky

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/123 of 24 January 2019 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of air traffic management (ATM) network functions and repealing Commission Regulation (EU) No 677/2011.

Apart from the Network Manager function under Union law, Eurocontrol is also actively involved in a range of other activities of Union relevance, such as research managed by the Joint Undertaking SESAR3, of which Eurocontrol is a major voting founding member represented by its Director General in the Governing Board. From 1 June 2022, Eurocontrol, represented by its Director General, will also become the co-ordinator of a consortium of partners establishing the SESAR Deployment Manager, which is a function established by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 409/2013<sup>3</sup>. Eurocontrol will also become the coordinator of over 200 projects aiming to implement Common Project 1<sup>4</sup>.

Eurocontrol is also a contributor to the relevant activities under the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317 laying down a performance and charging scheme.<sup>5</sup>

For the above reasons, the selection of the new Director General is in the opinion of the Commission services of considerable importance for Union policy.

### **Short listed candidates**

Following the publication of the vacancy announcement, the following four candidates have been nominated by their respective States as candidates for the position of Director General of Eurocontrol:

Ms Ingrid Cherfils by Sweden from the national CAA;

Mr Jan Klas by the Czech Republic (CEO of the CZ Air Navigation service provider);

Mr Patrick Ky by France (current Executive Director of EASA); and

Mr Raul Medina Caballero by Spain from the national CAA.

### **Considerations by the Commission services**

Eurocontrol will during the mandate of the next Director General have to face a number of challenges to further modernise and streamline the activities of the organisation, whilst managing a sizeable renewal of its staff. Key challenges will be to ensure that the organisation supports the transformation towards a more digitalised and cyber secure network management environment in line with the needs and objectives of the Single European Sky.

These challenges will need to be taken into account for the selection of the Director General.

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 409/2013 of 3 May 2013 on the definition of common projects, the establishment of governance and the identification of incentives supporting the implementation of the European Air Traffic Management Master Plan.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/116

<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/317 of 11 February 2019 laying down a performance and charging scheme in the single European sky and repealing Implementing Regulations (EU) No 390/2013 and (EU) No 391/2013.

From a Union perspective, it will be important to ensure that the new Director General has a thorough understanding of relevant Union policy and a clear view as regards the division of the activities of Eurocontrol stemming from Union policy and the activities of Eurocontrol concerning non-EU States, for which different rules apply. The successful candidate will therefore in particular have to have a good understanding of the conditions for appointment and of the role of the Network Manager under Union law, while ensuring also a pan European approach.

The Commission services therefore encourage EU Member States to vote for the candidate who demonstrates a thorough understanding of the future challenges of Eurocontrol and best demonstrates an in depth understanding of the Union dimension.

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