

July 2020



# European Society of Air Safety Investigators NEWSLETTER

www.esasi.eu

## SUMMER 2020

### EDITORIAL

Dear ESASI Members,

The coronavirus pandemic is having a devastating impact on our way of life and the aviation industry. We can only hope that a vaccine is quickly developed and that life, and aviation, return to normal as soon as possible. We also hope that the situation will have improved sufficiently to allow us to hold the rescheduled ESASI 20/21 seminar, which is planned to take place in Budapest during March 2021. ISASI has also postponed ISASI 2020, which will now be held in Montreal, Canada, during September 2021; there will be a knock-on effect on the hosting of future ISASI seminars.

This newsletter provides an update on a number of important topics for our society, including our future bylaws (ESASI Constitution) that will be based on a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered in the United Kingdom. The ESASI Constitution will be complemented by Terms of Reference (ToRs) that will address how ESASI operates. This Constitution was prepared by the ESASI Committee, reviewed by former Presidents, David King and Keith Conradi, as well as Anne Evans, who was previously on our Committee, before being sent out for consultation by ESASI Members. I warmly thank all those who have contributed to this document. The ToRs, which are about to be sent out for consultation, have followed the same process.

Another key topic is the ISASI election. A number of the positions on the ISASI Executive Committee are open for renewal with elections planned to be held from 15 July until 15 September 2020. Rob Carter is a nominee for the position of ISASI Vice-President and if elected he will be the perfect bridge over the big pond between ISASI and ESASI. Rob's bio, which is included in this newsletter, speaks for itself. Rob has dual UK-US citizenship as well as family ties in the Washington DC area, where ISASI HQ is based, which will undoubtedly facilitate his work as Vice-President and bring an international flavour to ISASI. I invite you to read Rob's letter of motivation that is available on the ESASI Website (see <https://www.esasi.eu/about-esasi>).

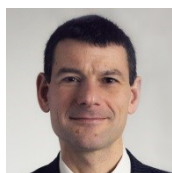
This newsletter also covers the last International Councillor Meeting that, due to the pandemic, was held by correspondence based on a memo (agenda) issued by the ISASI President Frank Del Gandio.

Please enjoy this newsletter and support Rob!

Sincerely,

Olivier FERRANTE  
ESASI President

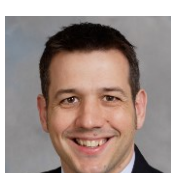
## ESASI Committee



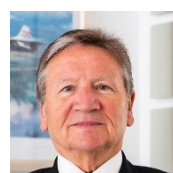
Olivier Ferrante  
President



Rob Carter  
European Councillor



Matt Greaves  
Treasurer



Steve Hull  
Secretary



Brian McDermid  
Technical Committee



Thorkell Agustsson  
Committee Member

### ESASI Constitution and ToRs

Your Committee identified that the best legal basis for an entity like ESASI is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), registered with the UK Charity Commission. The advantage of this approach is that there is no tax or personal financial liability.

We have developed a CIO Constitution document using one of the Charity Commission models, simplified to maintain continuity with our existing way of functioning. At the same time, it is essential to maintain the same recognizable structure as the Charity Commission model document so that the ESASI Constitution will be well received.

The draft ESASI Constitution has been made available on the ESASI Website for feedback. It foresees rotation among trustees in order to welcome motivated volunteers with new ideas and to maintain some continuity on administrative and financial matters.

To complement the ESASI Constitution, we have a less legalistic descriptive document that is entitled 'ESASI Terms of Reference' (ToRs).

These ToRs will provide details on the functioning of our organisation, the roles of each committee position and how we work with other entities such as ECAC ACC and the MASI group. The draft ToRs are made available on the ESASI website. We will seek your approval of the ToRs during our next Members' meeting.



### ISASI Elections

2020 is an election year for the positions in the ISASI Executive Committee. The period of nominations that initially ranged from May 1 through June 25, 2020 was extended to July 9. From the European side, Rob Carter (<https://www.esasi.eu/images/RCarter-ISASI-VP-2020.pdf>) has been nominated to run for the position of ISASI Vice-President. The current ISASI Vice-President is Ronald Schleede who will not reapply. The ESASI committee warmly thanks Ron for his dedication to ISASI and wishes him all the best in his future endeavours. The election will be held from July 15 through September 15, 2020.

#### Robert Carter's letter of motivation:

*After a fulfilling full-time aviation career in the USA and Europe, I am standing for election as Vice President of ISASI. I believe that in this economically challenging time for aviation, it would be helpful for ISASI's leadership to become more international and I would seek to promote widening international co-operation.*

*In all my investigations at the AAIB I have worked energetically in teams, across national boundaries and technical disciplines – although an engineer by background, I am an investigator by choice and an enthusiastic private pilot by inclination (power and glider licences, FAA & CAA).*

*I joined ISASI in 1991 and have presented papers at several seminars. As a member of the ESASI Executive committee, I have been a part of our success in our dynamic ESASI regional seminars within Europe. As Chair (2017-2020) of the ECAC ACC ('Group of Experts'), I have arranged and chaired the meetings of senior figures in European safety investigation from the 44 ECAC States, in cities from Bristol to Kiev.*

*If elected as ISASI VP, I would bring my enthusiasm, experience and perspective into the ISASI leadership. Although we are resident in the UK, my wife is from upstate New York and I am proud to hold both UK and USA citizenship. For 'face-to-face' ISASI contacts, we will continue to visit family and friends in North America regularly, particularly with our growing family connection in the Washington, DC, area.*

## ICM meeting/memo

The ICM meeting planned to take place on 1 May 2020 was replaced by correspondence based on a memo circulated by the ISASI President. The following text is the ESASI committee's feedback to the memo.

### 1. Society, Chapter, Committee, Working Group updates.

*In 2019 the ESASI committee was keen not to clash with the ISASI seminar in The Hague (which we enjoyed). Instead the team organized a technical workshop for late May 2019, hosted at Rolls-Royce, titled 'Safety Investigation Throughout the Aircraft Life Cycle - Design for Safety'. This was successful and the proceedings have been edited and reviewed into a useful document which has been made available to ISASI. The ESASI workshop event was enhanced by being placed 'back-to-back' with a meeting of the ACC (Group of Experts in Accident Investigation) group of the ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference).*

*The plan was to repeat this successful 'back-to-back' arrangement for the annual ESASI seminar and an ECAC ACC meeting in Budapest, Hungary, in early June 2020. That has had to be postponed and will now occur in late March 2021.*

*In other work, ESASI is applying to the UK Charities Commission for formal status as a charitable organization, as the annual seminars involve substantial funds and there needs to be a clear tax status. The current ESASI committee members would become the first Trustees of the charity.*

### 2. What is the aviation situation in your region as it pertains to the Coronavirus?

*As in other regions, the Coronavirus situation has had a profound effect on aviation within Europe at all levels.*

### 3. What are the issues you are facing?

*The challenges are both technical and economic, both for the operating industry and the substantial European manufacturing industry. We anticipate that, inter alia, this will have a substantial effect on sponsorship availability for future events.*

### 4. What are the travel restrictions in your region?

*Travel restrictions vary from country to country within Europe and even the European Union has struggled to establish a clear set of restrictions and requirements. This is a pressing matter as many European states are very reliant on their tourist industries, particularly in the summer months.*

### 5. Please provide your society financial statement and membership numbers.

*Within the draft Constitution that ESASI is submitting to the UK Charities Commission, all ISASI members in good standing with a bona fide connection to Europe are ESASI members at no additional cost and we do not maintain a separate membership, so ESASI currently has approximately 185 members. The ESASI committee currently has a 'cash-in-hand' of £25K (GBP), most of which is, or will be, committed to the upfront costs for the ESASI seminar in Budapest in March 2021.*

### 6. Any other business – Discussion on ISASI membership/admission/application changes -

*The ESASI committee discussed at length the topical issue of proposed changes to the membership application process. There is a wide sympathy for the difficulties in trying to manage, from a small executive group near DC the vetting needs for professional standing in a wide range of regions worldwide, and an appreciation of Frank and Ron's efforts. However, the ESASI committee view is that ISASI **should not abandon** a membership structure that aims to reward professional development within aviation safety. This looks like work that will need a substantial commitment from an invigorated ICM.*



## ESASI 20/21

Because of the restrictions resulting from the coronavirus crisis, the ESASI Committee and the TSB Hungary have postponed the ESASI Seminar to 18-19 March 2021 (instead of 3 to 4 June 2020). Our aim is to hold the postponed seminar back to back with an ECAC ACC meeting in the same approach as it was envisaged for this year.

The ESASI Seminar has kept the same theme '*Maintaining the Momentum*' and will be referred to as ESASI 20/21 (see new logo) as it will cover two years. The format of this event is also maintained and will consist of a one-day seminar to share experience, best practices and future developments, followed by a half-a-day workshop on disseminating the findings from a safety investigation.

Should pandemic prevent us from holding the ESASI 2021 seminar in Budapest next year, then we will look at organising and running a free web-based seminar.

### Registration

Registration for ESASI 20/21 will be reopened early September 2020. We will continue to work with our Hungarian partners from the TSB to identify ways of keeping the cost of travel and accommodation to a minimum.

For those who already paid their registration fees, we can either keep your registration for next year or reimburse you. The first option has our preference to minimize the administrative tasks for our treasurer.

## ESASI possible Webinars

The ESASI Committee is looking at the feasibility of organizing web-based seminars and holding our AGM using videoconference. Our webmaster is in the process of investigating the suitability, cost and licences for a number of suitable applications.

## New chairman of ECAC ACC

**Crispin Orr** (Chief Inspector of the Air Accident Investigation Branch, United Kingdom) was appointed as the new Chair of the ECAC Group of Experts on Accident and Incident Investigation

(ACC). Crispin assumes this appointment on 27 May 2020 for a first mandate of three years. Crispin replaces our ESASI colleague, Rob Carter, who chaired ECAC ACC for three years and who has been instrumental in the organisation of the 'back-to-back' ECAC ACC and ESASI events.



## Collaboration with EAAP

ESASI and the European Association for Aviation Psychology (EAAP) maintain their collaboration by notably cross-referencing their proceedings. The Derby Workshop report was made available to EAAP members on their website:

[\(https://www.eaap.net/\)](https://www.eaap.net/)



Reciprocally, the proceedings of the 33rd EAAP Conference that was held on 24-28 September 2018 in Croatia are available on our website <https://www.esasi.eu/aviation-links>



**TO JOIN ESASI: Please contact**  
**Ann Schull for ISASI membership:**  
[isasi@erols.com](mailto:isasi@erols.com) - or visit:  
<http://www.isasi.org/Memberships/Individual.aspx>