



MINISTÈRE  
DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

# FRANCE, A CANDIDATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) COUNCIL



THREE-YEAR TERM 2023-2025

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Cover picture :

First transatlantic test flight of two  
A350 aircraft in formation ("Fello' fly").

© Airbus 2021 – Sylvain Ramadier

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France is a country with a strong history of aviation, a founding member of the ICAO, and has been on the ICAO Council since its creation in 1947 as a State of chief importance in air transport.

In order to continue to support the international community as best as possible in developing and resuming safe and sustainable global air transport, France is presenting its candidacy to the ICAO Council for the 2023-2025 Three-Year Term as a Part I State.

# FRANCE: A MAJOR PLAYER IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION

## *French aviation in figures*

- 102 airlines operating
- 110 airports open to international traffic
- 70 million passengers despite the pandemic
- 2.01 million tonnes of cargo
- 1.77 million flights handled by air traffic control each year
- 14 million km<sup>2</sup> under French air traffic management
- €52.9 billion generated by the sector
- 1.142 million direct and indirect jobs
- 31 bilateral technical cooperation agreements

France is now one of the few aviation countries in the world to cover the full extent of the aviation field: aircraft manufacturing, airports, airlines, air navigation systems, cooperation and training.

French air traffic control services have to manage one of the largest and busiest air spaces in Europe, covering an area of 1 million km<sup>2</sup>. In 2021, and despite the COVID-19 crisis, they handled 1.77 million flights within metropolitan France and delegated airspace. They are also responsible for air traffic control in French overseas territories, covering over 14 million km<sup>2</sup> across the globe. Lastly, with regard to aviation safety, France supervises over 18,000 registered aircraft, 135,000 licenced pilots and over 500 airports.

The French aviation industry includes all market segments (freight planes, corporate jets, helicopters, engines, systems), with first-class global groups like Airbus, ATR, Dassault, Thales and Safran.

## FRANCE: A COUNTRY WITH VAST EXPERTISE

Due to its experience and know-how, France has a large number of experts in the aviation industry:

- since the start of the ICAO, there has been a French expert elected to the Air Navigation Commission;
- French technical experts are present in most ICAO Technical Panels and many of its Working Groups, thus contributing to the Organization's five Strategic Objectives;
- France also contributes to ICAO activities through the provision of experts free of charge. In 2021, this assistance in kind was worth over CA\$1.3 million and constituted the third largest contribution in staff provided by ICAO States.

## FRANCE: A MAJOR PLAYER IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION

A partner of the No Country Left Behind initiative, France is leading many assistance programmes with other Member States, especially in Asia and Africa, through bilateral cooperation agreements or ICAO programmes (ASIAP, FPP, NGAP, etc.). For this, it can draw on the experience of the French Civil Aviation School (ENAC), a regional centre of excellence under the ICAO TRAINAIR + programme, with almost 3,000 students enrolled, 30% of whom are foreign nationals.

### *Spotlight on...*

Since 2018, France has provided its support to the ICAO Flight Procedure Programmes (FPPs) in Africa and the Asia-Pacific. These programmes aim to improve air navigation performance. A technical agreement between France and the ICAO, renewed in 2021, has formalized this support. So far, France has helped train people from 89 States. In 2021, a FPP programme was established by the ICAO in the Middle East, to which France is also expected to provide its technical support.

# FRANCE: AN INNOVATION- DRIVEN COUNTRY

In order to prepare for the future with the entire sector, including SMEs and the full supply chain, in 2008 France created CORAC (French Civil Aviation Research Council),

a State-industry discussion forum which sets out a coordinated R&D programme to meet the airline industry's future challenges: reducing the environmental footprint, connectivity, autonomy and new technologies for industrial excellence.

Since the creation of CORAC, the volume of industry research has increased by 80% across the sector and has now reached over €900 million annually.



53<sup>rd</sup> Paris Air Show, Le Bourget (2019)  
© MEAE – Judith Litvine



## FRENCH COMMITMENTS

On the occasion of this new Three-Year Term, France, ICAO's 6<sup>th</sup> leading contributor, is resolutely committed to supporting ICAO in its efforts to support the resumption of activity, bolster the security and safety of aviation, accelerate the transition towards carbon neutral aviation and address the challenges ahead, including the integration of artificial intelligence technologies, the management of capabilities and cybersecurity.

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