

NEWSLETTER

January 2026



EDITORIAL

Dear ESASI Members and Friends,

The start of a New Year brings with it the prospects of renewal, new opportunities and activities for ESASI. It is also an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments in 2025 and draw inspiration from them for 2026.

Thanks to the hard work of ESASI Committee members Arben and Thorkell, together with the precious support of a few IT experts from the UK AAIB (Thank you, Al and Liam 🙏), we were able to launch ESASI's new website, presenting a new look but more importantly using a more modern and secure IT platform, compatible with today's technology.

Our FocusOn... series of webinars continues to attract vast numbers of participants from across the globe. This was the case for both webinars held in 2025; one dedicated to SMS in the first half of the year and the other, more recent, on the topic of investigating ATC events. While we don't yet have a theme for the next FocusOn..., it is planned for the end of 2026 and will once again follow the same two-hour format, assembling notable subject matter experts on the chosen topic. Please let us know if you have any thoughts for the next FocusOn...

The focus of the ESASI Committee will now shift towards planning and preparing the next ESASI 2026 seminar, which will be held this year in Dubrovnik, Croatia on the 20th and 21st of May. Building on the success of ESASI 2025 in Vienna the Committee will replicate the same model, counting this year with the support of local hosts, the Croatian Air, Maritime and Railway Traffic Accident Investigation Agency. Similar to last year, sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available which will, as always, go towards helping us maintain affordable registration fees. Please let us know if you wish to support ESASI 2026 in this way.

Last but by no means least, a warm welcome to Massimo Catusi from Italy who joins the ESASI Committee following the elections in November, becoming the Committee's tenth member. Massimo brings with him a wealth of experience and enthusiasm which I am sure will further support ESASI's activities in 2026.

Thank you all for your continued support and best wishes for 2026 from all of us on the ESASI Committee.

Nuno Aghdassi

ESASI Committee: Nuno Aghdassi, President (Portugal); Thorkell Agustsson, European Councillor (Iceland); Robert Carter (UK); Arben Dika (Kosovo); Paula Dugdale (UK); Olivier Ferrante, Secretary (France); Kate Fitzgerald (Ireland); Matt Greaves, Treasurer (UK); David King (UK); Massimo Catusi (Italy)

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New Year – time to check your ISASI membership

The ISASI membership year runs January to December. So now, if you are in any doubt, is the time to check that your ISASI membership has renewed. As a European member of course, this ISASI membership brings with it your full ESASI membership. ESASI does not have any additional membership dues.

The easiest way for you and ISASI, is for you to enrol in automatic renewal. These renewals will have happened on 1/1/2026 and **should** have prompted an eMail to you from the electronic membership system ("Wild Apricot"). If you have **not** received such a message, please do check your membership. You can use these steps from Ann Schull, the ISASI Office manager:

'To renew your membership. You can go to the new ISASI Membership Management portal (www.isasi.wildapricot.org) and follow the steps below:

- *Login with your email*
- *Click on your name (top right corner)*
- *Select to "View Profile"*
- *On this page you will see an option to renew or update any information.'*

If you are uncertain, please feel free to contact the ever-helpful **Ann** (ann.schull@isasi.org). She can also help new applicants. If you are having difficulty accessing your details, please feel free to contact the ISASI Membership

Chair, **Rob Carter**, on rdg.carter@outlook.com. He's also on the ESASI Committee.

It **really** helps your ESASI Committee if you can keep your membership up to date. Every year some members need to be identified and reminded. An added incentive is that, beginning this year, ISASI is aiming to support the Regional and National Societies' (eg ESASI) finances by remitting a small portion of the ISASI dues. Very helpful. So – please check that you have renewed! Thanks.

Welcome, Massimo



The ESASI Committee has a new member (and a new flag)! Mr. Massimo Catusi from Italy was elected as the 10th member of the ESASI Committee during the recent elections which took place at the end of 2025.

Massimo's career in aviation started in 2006 when he worked as a Station Supervisor for Eurofly. He later joined Meridiana where he had the opportunity to work as Cargo Manager and as part of the Ground Operations go-team for opening and overseeing new passenger services. Mainly he enjoyed working in Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria. Currently he serves as Safety Officer at Milan Bergamo Airport, working as Company Lead Safety Investigator, Reporting Officer, Auditor and Trainer.

He is an associate member of EAAP, *Fondazione 8 ottobre 2001*, and he is passionate about human factors after joining Cranfield University's course on Investigating Human Performance. He joined ISASI/ESASI to boost his understanding in investigating safety occurrences thanks to the possibility of sharing knowledge from the most experienced professionals in the industry, and now he has the opportunity to shape ESASI's activities and contribute with his own vast experience. All of us on the Committee are very much looking forward to working with Massimo starting in 2026.

ISASI 2025 – Denver



The ISASI 2025 Annual Training Seminar was held in Denver, Colorado, from the 29th of September to the 3rd of October 2025, bringing together over 300 aviation safety investigation professionals from across the globe. Organised this year by ISASI itself (as opposed to being in collaboration with a regional chapter, for instance) the seminar focused on advancing air safety through effective accident investigation, professional development and international co-operation. The theme, "Soaring to New Heights: A World of Innovation," reflected the rapidly evolving aviation and aerospace environment.

The technical programme included a broad range of presentations and panel discussions covering modern investigative methods, human and organisational factors, data analysis, materials and structures, and safety management. Significant attention was given to emerging challenges such as uncrewed aircraft systems, eVTOL operations, commercial space activities, and the increasing use of digital tools and data in investigations.

Several sessions explored the future of the profession, with discussions on training and mentoring the next generation of investigators and adapting investigative practices in an era of improving safety performance. The seminar highlighted the need to preserve institutional knowledge while incorporating new technologies and analytical techniques into accident investigation.

In addition to the technical content, ISASI 2025 offered valuable networking and collaboration opportunities through tutorials, discussions

and social events. Overall, the seminar reinforced ISASI's commitment to enhancing global aviation safety by encouraging innovation, sharing lessons learned and strengthening the international community of air safety investigators.

ESASI New Website



In November, ESASI launched its long-awaited new website after a lot of effort from a few knowledgeable ESASI Committee members with the support of IT specialists from the UK AAIB.

ESASI's new website can be accessed at www.esasi.org. The old website at www.esasi.eu has been decommissioned and will redirect users to the new website which from now on will be ESASI's new 'home' on the internet. The new website uses more modern and secure protocols and is compatible with different browser platforms and mobile devices. The domain change from .eu to .org reflects ESASI's growth, maturity and recognition as a regional aviation safety stakeholder beyond the boundaries of the EU.

While every effort has been made to transfer the information from the old website to the new, we are still finalising some details and uploading the content from the previous ESASI Seminars onto the new platform. If you encounter any issues or have suggestions for improvements, please feel free to report them to us. ESASI's other channels on [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) remain unaffected.

FocusOn... Investigating ATC Events



ESASI's FocusOn... Investigating ATC Events was held as a virtual session on the 3rd of December 2025, focusing on the investigation of air traffic control (ATC) occurrences and their relevance in light of some recent high-profile accidents and other serious incidents currently under investigation by European SIAs. Investigating such events are particularly relevant considering that ATC events have a high potential of resulting in catastrophic consequences.

This online event formed part of ESASI's ongoing FocusOn... series, which aims to share aviation safety knowledge, case studies and experience in a concise and accessible format, to support investigators.

The following four distinguished speakers presented at the event:

- *Mr Ian Petchenik, Director of Communications, Flightradar24, Sweden*
- *Mr Johan Reuss, retired Director of the BFU, Germany*
- *Mr Mark Ellis, Senior Inspector of Air Accidents, AAIB, UK*
- *Mr Daniel Knecht, Head of Aviation Division, Swiss Transportation Safety Investigation Board (STSB)*

Over 100 participants joined the event from across the globe. The content from the presentations and a video recording of FocusOn... Investigating ATC Events is available and can be accessed from [ESASI NEW\(!\) website](#) 😊.

Coming-up in 2026!

There is a lot to look forward to in 2026 and the ESASI Committee is busy preparing activities for the New Year. Here is an overview of what to expect and which dates to look-out for:

ESASI 2026, 20-21 May, Dubrovnik, Croatia



ESASI 2026 DUBROVNIK 20-21 May 2026

The next ESASI 2026 seminar will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, on the 20th and 21st of May. The event will be held back-to-back with the ECAC ACC meeting planned for the 19th of May. ESASI is grateful for the support of its local hosts, the Croatian Air, Maritime and Railway Traffic Accident Investigation Agency. The ESASI Committee will begin working towards preparing the programme in early 2026 and will issue a call for presentations.

In the meantime, if you have worked on any recent safety investigation or case study and would like to share your results/lessons learned at the seminar, please get in touch using the following email address:

contact@esasi.org

Exhibitor and Sponsor opportunities are also available.

Registration, accommodation, and full programme details will be made available in due course.

ISASI 2026, Dubai, United Arab Emirates



Our colleagues at ISASI are busy preparing the ISASI 2026 seminar in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in Q3, 2026 (exact dates yet to be announced). Details will be made available by ISASI in due course.

Next ESASI FocusOn... webinar

With the ESASI Committee busy in preparing the programme and making arrangements for ESASI 2026 in the beginning of the year, the next FocusOn... webinar is planned for the end of 2026. If you have any suggestions for a theme, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please remember that it needs to be very much related to technical, operational or human factor aspects of aviation safety investigations. You can again reach us using the following email address:

contact@esasi.org