

# NEWSLETTER

February 2022



## EDITORIAL



Dear ESASI Members and Friends,

Over the last two years ESASI has developed a new and proper Constitution, reflecting modern practices and replacing the original 1983 ESASI founding document. So in January 2021 ESASI became a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and this was endorsed unanimously at the AGM following the ESASI 2021 virtual seminar in July.

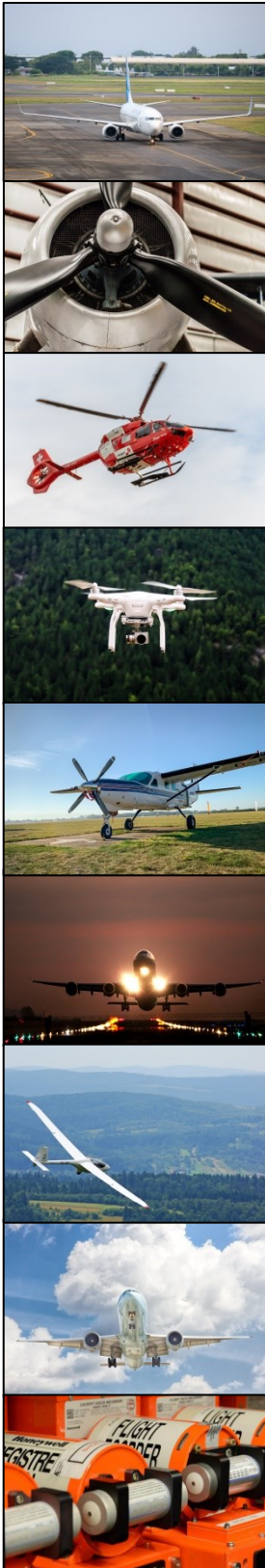
The Constitution states that following the first AGM of the new CIO, at least one-third of the ESASI Committee (formally 'Charity Trustees') should retire from office or stand for re-election. That's what happened, with the two longest-standing of our 6 committee members standing for re-election, the intent at that time being to expand to a committee of 8.

So in the Autumn there was a call to the ESASI membership for candidates. A total of 6 responded by the deadline and submitted their 'motivation statements', duly posted on the ESASI website for members to view before the November voting. The candidates were a strong field – Olivier Ferrante and Brian McDermid (existing Committee members), plus Nuno Aghdassi, Arben Dika, Kate Fitzgerald and David King.

Regarding the election results, there had been a good election turnout and all 6 candidates, including the four new ones, were well supported. The remaining Committee considered this, balanced with the plans ESASI has over the next few years. The result was that the Committee voted to expand the ESASI Committee to a total of 10 as foreseen in the ESASI Constitution (details on the ESASI website). This broadens our geographic and gender balance and allows a new distribution of duties - including the preparation of a bid to host the main ISASI international seminar in 2024. The next election? *'At alternating ESASI AGMs, one-third of the charity Trustees shall retire from office or stand for re-election'* – so the next ESASI election should be in the Autumn 2023.

Looking ahead, the next ESASI major event is the delayed Budapest, Hungary, event of ESASI 2022 (6-7 April). The planned event will be at the same impressive Danube location originally scheduled for the (postponed!) 2020 event. Registration is now open and there are more details on the ESASI website. As at the ESASI seminar in Derby May 2019, the event will be preceded by a one-day meeting (5 April) of the ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) ACC 'Group of Investigation experts' at the same venue – and this time there is also planned on 5 April a half-day of the MASI (Military Air Safety Investigation) group. So – 'fingers crossed' for Budapest in the Spring!

Rob Carter  
ESASI European Councillor



**ESASI Committee:** Olivier Ferrante, President (France); Steve Hull, Secretary (UK); Matt Greaves, Treasurer (UK); Arben Dika (Kosovo); Brian McDermid (UK); David King (UK); Kate Fitzgerald (Ireland); Nuno Aghdassi (Portugal); Robert Carter (UK); Thorkell Agustsson (Iceland)

## ESASI 2022

### Registration is Open

Our Annual Seminar in-person will take place in **Budapest** on **6-7 April 2022**. Please register and join us in Budapest!



ESASI 2022 will be held back-to-back with the 56th meeting of the ECAC accident and incident investigation expert group (ACC/56) scheduled on 5 April 2022.

For further information on how to register please follow the link below <https://www.esasi.eu/esasi-2022>

### MASI (Military Air Safety Investigators) – 5 April 2022



Prior to the plenary seminar, ESASI will facilitate the MASI tutorial that will be held on Tuesday afternoon 5 April 2022 in Budapest. ESASI has been supporting the organization of military tutorials these past years and will continue to do so in the future.

If you are interested in contributing to this tutorial, please send a short abstract to Jim Roberts ([james.w.roberts3@boeing.com](mailto:james.w.roberts3@boeing.com)) or Chris Field ([Christopher.L.Field@boeing.com](mailto:Christopher.L.Field@boeing.com)) by 18 February 2022. The format of the presentations is flexible (no formal papers requested) in order to build an interactive programme on this specific topic. The primary

intent is to renew acquaintances across the different Military ASI groups and “*Maintain the Momentum*”.

### FocusOn...Protected information – 7 December 2021

The first, ‘FocusOn.... Aviation Insurance’ in Spring 2021 had been a success, with five crisp presenters over about 90 minutes giving different angles on the topic and some time for Q&A, finishing within two hours (just!). So this was the second in the series - ‘FocusOn... Protected Information’, scheduled for Tuesday 7 December 2021 (the anniversary of the signature of the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation) and looking at the protection of evidence during a safety investigation.

The background is this – ICAO Annex 13, the European Union Regulation (EU) No 996/2010 and national regulations specify evidence that is not permitted to be released outside of an investigation without the IIC being instructed to do so by the ‘appropriate authority’, after a ‘balance test’. However, plenty of stakeholders contend that there is a need for protected information to be released for various reasons. For instance, regulators request evidence to support Continuing Airworthiness and lawyers and victims’ families ask for the disclosure of sensitive information (e.g. CVR) for a variety of purposes. Journalists want to inform the public quickly and accurately and may seek privileged information.

For this session, ‘FocusOn.... Protected Information’, ESASI were fortunate to gather an excellent slate of presenters. First it was the lawyers - Annemarie Schuite, Senior legal officer at the Dutch Safety Board, opened with a very clear description of the legal basis for the ‘Protection of Investigation Information’, particularly within a European setting, acknowledging the differences in legal

practices between EU States. This was complemented by Rob Lawson of the UK (Clyde & Co.) with a description of how these balancing test provisions have played out in the relatively rare UK legal cases that have occurred.

There were then presenters giving a viewpoint from a manufacturer's position (Bernd Osswald & Michel Martin – both of Airbus Helicopters) and from the European regulator, EASA (Alessandro Cometa). Although there may be differences in viewpoint, a common theme between these presentations was the need to support 'Continued Airworthiness' needs (ICAO Annex 8) – while still respecting the protections enshrined in the ICAO SARPS, and European and national law. Closing out the presentations, Tim Hopher of Reuters gave a balanced view as a practising aviation journalist of many years, noting how few professional aviation journalists are employed by major outlets now – and how the responsible journalist does need to balance the public appetite for accurate news stories with legal protections.

Well over 100 sites logged into this second 'FocusOn....' Session – and the reviews seem to have been very positive – there is clearly a good appetite for this sort of length (90 to 120 minutes) on particular topics.



### ESASI New trustees

#### Arben Dika

Arben is a safety investigator, Member of Aeronautical Accident and Incident Investigation Commission of Republic of Kosovo. He is responsible for investigating aircraft accidents and serious incidents in the territory of Republic of Kosovo and has been involved in many Aircraft Investigations as an Investigator in Charge (IIC). He has also participated in many meetings, seminars, workshops and training where he has had the chance to know and meet excellent professionals and made friends around the world.



He has viewed ESASI as an additional opportunity to increase his knowledge, develop his network and have the chance to learn and share best lessons learned from peers.

#### David King

David was one of the active team that resuscitated ESASI in 2008 starting the Seminar programme at Cranfield University. The plan then was to provide ESASI members with an up-to-date and relevant society with accessible and affordable seminars of high calibre content. Through a period as ESASI President, with great support, he thinks that was achieved and it has continued under the succeeding stewardship.





After many years at the AAIB, the last 5 as Chief Inspector, he 'retired' from full time work and took up various part time posts within the sector. Since 2010, he has spent nine years as Chairman of the Board Safety Review Committee for Cathay Pacific Airways, eight years as a Non-Executive Board Member for the UK CAA and 3 years as Co-Chair of the National Aviation Security Committee. These part time but significant roles meant that he had little time for other endeavours. However, all three appointments have recently reached their contractual termination points and so he does have time to reconsider other opportunities. Throughout he has remained a contributor to the Cranfield University Accident Investigation Courses.

He has now had the benefit of seeing the industry from three quite different perspectives; Regulation, Operation and Accident Investigation and remains motivated to contribute to ESASI as it develops into an ever more relevant Society for the members.

### **Kate Fitzgerald**

Kate is an aeronautical engineer by background. She started her career in Rolls-Royce where she spent seven years working on certification and test projects including the F135 Joint Strike Fighter and the Boeing 787. She then spent a number of years working as a technical services engineer for Stobart Air in Dublin, before moving to the AAIU, Ireland in 2017 where she now works as an Engineering Inspector of Air Accidents.



Every investigation Kate has been involved in has required her to work with her colleagues in other states. Therefore, she thinks it is particularly important that air safety investigators have a forum in which they can share ideas, knowledge and experiences. In addition, the opportunity to get to know colleagues in a relaxed environment, before working with them in the pressurised environment of an investigation is invaluable. ESASI and ISASI provide this forum, which is why she was interested in providing her support to ESASI by becoming a Trustee.

### **Nuno Aghdassi**

Nuno has been a member of ISASI since 2002 and a staunch supporter of ESASI ever since. At the ISASI 2007 annual seminar in Singapore, he was actively involved in the discussions about re-launching ESASI and committed his support for such undertaking. In 2011 he hosted the ESASI annual seminar in Lisbon and has since also been involved in one capacity or the other (presenter, moderator, technical committee member, etc.) in ESASI or ISASI seminars held in Europe.



As a Trustee, he is committed to ensure that our European Society keeps going from strength to strength. He has been actively involved in aviation safety and accident investigation for well over 20 years. His undergraduate and postgraduate training was all done in the UK (London and Cranfield) before starting his career in Madrid. Soon thereafter, he moved to Paris where he joined Embraer and was tasked with creating the regional safety office for EMEA, a role where he was regularly nominated as advisor to the CENIPA Accredited Representative for investigations involving Embraer products in the region. After almost 6 and a half years in Paris, he returned to Lisbon and joined NetJets where he was leading the safety team and established a state-of-the-art safety management system including a comprehensive FDM programme covering a wide variety of business jet types and a dedicated human factors expert to support the investigation team and create a crew wellbeing programme.

After 12 years with NetJets, he joined GPIAAF (the Portuguese SIA) as one of their investigators in the civil aviation unit. Throughout his aviation safety career, he has been involved in numerous regulatory and industry working groups and advisory bodies (JAA, EASA, IATA, EBAA, ERA to name a few).

### ISASI WG on Strategy

The 5-year strategic working group met once more at the beginning of January to discuss the best way to collect input on the most significant areas which have been identified. From Europe, the meeting was attended by Prof. Graham Braithwaite (Cranfield University) and ESASI committee members, Mr. Ágústsson and Mr. Aghdassi.

The working group members studied the possibility of conducting a membership-wide survey but settled on reaching out to members via the regional chapters of the

Society. As such, an email was sent out to regional society presidents, asking them to consult with their constituent members and seek feedback on the following key areas:

- ISASI website – What content would members like to see? Suggestions for improvement?
- FORUM - The Forum is a “tangible” takeaway for members. Suggestions for improvement?
- Seminars – Thoughts on seminar format – for example - include virtual option to participate, offer additional training in conjunction with seminar, promotion of regional seminars.
- Additional subjects that have been identified for consideration for the strategic plan include data security, ISASI management succession (term limitations) and ways to attract student members.

A follow-on Zoom meeting will take place in the coming months with the regional society presidents once all of the input has been received, to discuss the most relevant suggestions before putting them forward to the ISASI Council for consideration.

### ESASI Membership

The next ESASI NewsLetter will have a section on New Members, as was done for the Spring 2021 edition. If you are new with ESASI (and ISASI) and interested in this initiative, please send your picture with a short bio to Steve Hull ([stevehull62@gmail.com](mailto:stevehull62@gmail.com)), so that you will be better known by the ESASI community!

The recent October bulletin highlighted the new membership system for ISASI/ESASI members called ‘Wild Apricot’. This tool is a very practical for ESASI Members to review their own data.

#### 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>