

# NEWSLETTER

January 2025



## EDITORIAL

Dear ESASI Members and Friends,

I am very pleased to share with you our 2024/2025 winter newsletter, following what was a very busy year for the ESASI Committee, on organising the ISASI 2024 seminar in Lisbon. We are busy compiling notes and plan to share an overview of the presentations and the key discussion points as a supplement to this newsletter, which will be distributed separately.

The gathering in Lisbon also allowed us to hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM); an opportunity for us to report on ESASI activities and finances and also to receive input for the future from our Members and Friends. It is also part of our obligation to fulfil with the governance protocols required by UK's Charity Commission which we take very seriously. The AGM report is provided as an appendix of this newsletter for anyone who was unable to attend the AGM in person.

2024 was a special year for ESASI, not least because it marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ISASI's European regional Chapter. Formed in 1984, in the United Kingdom, ESASI and its activities have evolved over the years thanks to the support of its Members, Friends of ESASI and everyone who has volunteered their time and effort to serve on the ESASI Committee.

It is on this note that I would like to extend my personal appreciation for the many years of dedicated service on the ESASI Committee of our colleague Brian McDermid. Brian, a well-known and experienced air accident investigator at the UK AAIB, retired earlier this year and chose to also step down from his role on the ESASI Committee to devote time to non-aviation related projects, during his retirement. Brian contributed decisively to ESASI as Chair of the Technical Committee of many seminars and was behind the creation of our hugely successful FocusOn... webinars.

Continuing Brian's legacy, I am pleased to announce that the ESASI Committee is already working hard on preparing the next FocusOn... webinar (on the topic of SMS) in March and the ESASI 2025 seminar which will be held this year in Vienna, in May.

Finally, a warm welcome to all of our new individual and corporate members, and an invitation to hopefully see many of you in person at ESASI 2025 in Vienna. Who knows, there might even be cake! 😊

In the meantime, best wishes for 2025 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)

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## Checked your ISASI renewal?

The ISASI membership year runs January to December – so now is a good time to check your ISASI membership renewal. This ISASI membership includes your ESASI membership – ESASI charges nothing extra.

The easiest way for you, and ISASI, is to be enrolled in automatic renewal. These renewals will have happened on 1/1/2025 and should have prompted an email to you from the electronic membership system. 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](http://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 in doubt, you may contact the ever-helpful Ann ([ann.schull@isasi.org](mailto:ann.schull@isasi.org)). She can also help new applicants. If you are having difficulty accessing your details, you may also contact the current Membership Chair, Rob Carter, on [rob.carter@isasi.org](mailto:rob.carter@isasi.org).

It really helps your ESASI Committee if you can keep your membership up to date. Thank you.

## Annual General Meeting

ESASI held its 2024 AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2024 after the plenary session of ISASI 2024, in Lisbon. The meeting was open to everyone and was well represented by ESASI affiliated individual and corporate members. Details of the discussions are included in the Annex of the newsletter. The 2025 AGM will be held during the ESASI 2025 seminar in Vienna.

## ESASI New Members

ESASI is glad to welcome the following new members to ISASI and ESASI:

- **Mr. Massimo Catusi**



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 the new passengers 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 a human factors passionate after joining Cranfield University's course in 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.

During his spare time he loves travelling with his wife and two children who are the fulcrum of his life. Basketball (Olimpia Milano) and football (AC Milan and Fulham) are his other passions along with his Fiat Seicento and his Vespa.

- **Mr. Jesus Lozano**



Jesus is Safety Manager at Plus Ultra Airlines with more than 10 years of experience in the sector. His background is as an aerospace engineer and private pilot. His Aircraft Accident Investigation training at

Cranfield University allowed him to work for Airbus DS Safety Enhancement department and for Air Europa as deputy Safety Manager, before joining Plus Ultra Airlines.

Passionate for aviation safety since very young, he focuses on organizational safety investigation and risk management. Jesus looks forward to connect with safety professionals with whom to share information and knowledge, and feels privileged to be a member of ISASI.

- **Mr. Paulo Cravo**



Paulo has over 23 years of experience in the aviation industry in developing and implementing comprehensive safety programs, and a passion for

fostering a culture of safety. In his previous role as Safety Manager and aviation lead auditor at the European F-16 Training Centre (Daedalus contractor), he was responsible for all aspects of safety management, including risk assessments, hazard identification, incident investigation, and ensuring regulatory compliance. He also held leadership positions at Bestfly Group (3 AOC's Angola, Aruba and Cape Verde), where he served as Head of Safety and aviation lead auditor.

Paul holds several certificates (i.e. Aviation Safety Management System (SMS) manager,

Accident Investigator, Emergency Response Plan Manager). He is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Airport and Aeronautical Safety Management.

- **Mr. Marius Brazys**



Marius is a new member of ESASI/ISASI. In 2007 he got a MSc in Engineering from Vilnius TECH University, and in 2021 another MSc in Quality

Management from Vilnius University. He is currently studying at City St. George's University of London for the third MSc in Air Safety Management. He has been working in various management positions since 2012 in a few airlines. He has been involved in safety management and investigations since 2014. He is currently the Head of Safety at Heston Airlines.

Other New Members who have joined ESASI during the second semester of 2024:

- Mr. Elias Blume
- Ms. Katharine Siobhan Pearson
- Ms. Nicole Farrell

## ESASI New Corporate Member



ESASI welcomes the Safety Investigation Authority of Portugal – GPIAAF as its most recent affiliated corporate member. The Office for the Prevention and Investigation of Accidents in Civil Aviation and Rail (*Gabinete de Prevenção e Investição de Acidentes com Aeronaves e de Acidentes Ferroviários* in Portuguese) is an independent multimodal authority created in April 2017, with the merger of the existing civil aviation and rail safety investigation authorities. GPIAAF is headquartered in Lisbon with a satellite hangar at Viseu aerodrome which is used for the storage of civil aviation wreckage. In the civil aviation domain, GPIAAF's mission is to fulfil the provisions of ICAO's Annex 13, EU



Regulation No 996/2010 and Portuguese Decree-Law 318/99 through the investigation of civil aviation accidents and serious incidents aimed at prevention of future accidents, and engage domestic and international stakeholders in the dissemination of lessons-learned to foster the continuous improvement of aviation safety. GPIAAF is actively involved in the ECAC group of experts in accident/incident investigation and ENCASIA's EMSS and Peer Review Working Groups.

## ESASI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary



Congratulations are in order as ESASI marked its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024. The original constitution of ESASI was established on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1984 in the United Kingdom by ISASI members who worked at British Airways and the UK AAIB. Members from Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland offered their services in creating ESASI. The constitution refers to the following four issues which justified the establishment of ESASI in 1984:

1. To create a body which, "could act as the catalyst for the informal exchange of ideas, problems, attitudes, etc. [which] can be very effective in making formal exchanges much smoother and less onerous".
2. "The tide of change is tending to unify Europe and this is particularly evident in the aviation industry".
3. "[...] Large enough and growing membership in Europe to justify the development of consensus European views [...]."
4. "[...] The formal identification of the European Society will lead to a clarification of the advantages and to a growth in membership."

Many of these points are of relevance still today and are an integral part of ESASI's

mission which we strive to fulfil together with our members and friends. Here's to the next 40 years!

## ISASI 2024 seminar in Lisbon

The highlight of 2024 was the ISASI seminar which ESASI organised in Lisbon, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. This was preceded by tutorials on the 30<sup>th</sup> September



on Human Factors/Mental Health and Fire Investigation. The MASI group also held its meeting before the main seminar. The theme for the main seminar was, 'Safely Navigating Uncharted Waters'; a reflection on the innovation and pioneering spirit of the Navigators of old, who spearheaded the exploration of new frontiers. The seminar was attended by over 300 delegates from across the globe, from industry and government, addressing emerging issues that are influencing aviation safety and the challenges faced by investigators with the expansion of commercial space operations, increasing use of unmanned aerial vehicles, introduction of urban mobility, and alternative propulsion systems - often with organisations new to aerospace. ISASI 2024 was the culmination of two years of effort by the ESASI Committee in making preparations for what became a memorable ISASI seminar, with an exciting technical programme alongside social opportunities for networking. An overview of the programme and some of the key discussion points will be distributed separately.

## Thank you, Brian McDermid



The Committee and Trustees of ESASI would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Brian McDermid. Brian has recently retired from the UK Air Accidents Investigation

Branch (AAIB) and is therefore also standing down from the Committee of ESASI.

Brian joined the AAIB in 2004, direct from his career as an engineering officer in the Royal Air Force. During his 20 years at the AAIB he participated in 417 investigations, 192 as Inspector in Charge. He was involved in a number of major investigations, most prominently his work on fuel icing following the accident to a British Airways B777, G-YMMM, at Heathrow in January 2008. Brian was also seconded for several months to assist with the establishment of the UK's Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch.

Until Brexit, Brian took an active role in the work of the European Network of Civil Aviation Safety Investigation Authorities (ENCASIA) where for several years he was the secretariat and Chair of the Peer Review and EMSS working groups. In particular, the ENCASIA Mutual Support System (EMSS) has paved the way for regional cooperation to manage major investigations in Europe. Brian was instrumental in setting up a roadmap to gradually add tools to make the network more operational. He also had a key role in the ENCASIA team that organised and delivered trainings over a number of years on investigation management, which included five major accident desktop exercises.

Since 2009 Brian had been increasingly involved in ESASI and was Chair of the Technical Committee for the successful ISASI Seminar in Augsburg (2015) and was on the organising committee for Reykjavik (2016). He brought huge enthusiasm and experience into the ESASI leadership and lead the Technical Committee for the ESASI seminars in Madrid (2013), Milan (2014), Ljubljana (2017), Riga (2018), Derby (2019), Budapest (2022) and Bratislava (2023). The continuing ESASI 'FocusOn...' technical webinars have also been a product of Brian's fertile creativity and bounding energy. Finally, he led the Technical Committee for the recent successful ISASI seminar in Lisbon, for which we at ESASI thank him and wish him the best in his future 'post-aviation' projects.

### Coming-up in 2025!



#### FocusOn... Safety Management Systems

ESASI will hold its next FocusOn... webinar on the topic of Safety Management Systems (SMS) on the **5<sup>th</sup> March, 2025**. While the requirement for commercial operators to have an SMS in place has been in force for many years, other aviation domains such as air navigation, maintenance, design and production organisations are more recently required to have implemented a formal SMS. FocusOn... Safety Management Systems will address the issue from the perspective of organisations with a mature SMS and others who are more recent on their path towards a formal SMS. While attendance of the webinar is **free**, we kindly request delegates to **register beforehand** to receive their access details. Registration details and programme will be made available soon.



#### ESASI 2025, Vienna, Austria

The next ESASI 2025 seminar will be held in Vienna, Austria, on the **14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May**. The event will be held back-to-back with the ECAC ACC/62 meeting planned for the 13<sup>th</sup> of May. ESASI is grateful for the support of its

local hosts, the Safety Investigation Authority of Austria, the BMK. The MASI group will also meet in Vienna. The ESASI Committee is currently working towards preparing the programme and has already issued the **call-for-presentations**. **Deadline for proposals is the 15<sup>th</sup> of February** and should be submitted to the following email address:

[presentations@esasi.eu](mailto:presentations@esasi.eu)

Exhibitor and Sponsor opportunities are also available.

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



### ISASI 2025, Denver, Colorado

ISASI 2025 will be held in Denver, Colorado from the **29<sup>th</sup> of September to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October**. Full details will be made available in due course.

## Appendix

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### Annual General Meeting 2024 Report 1 October 2024

#### Annual General Meeting of the European Society of Air Safety Investigators

In accordance with its Constitution, the ESASI Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held during the ESASI annual event. It took place in the Marriott Hotel in Lisbon, Portugal on 1-3 October 2024. For 2024, ESASI organized the ISASI annual seminar in Europe, which replaced the ESASI regional seminar. ISASI 2024 was preceded by the MASI (Military Air Safety Investigators) meeting and the ISASI tutorials on 30 September 2024.

#### Introduction, 2023 AGM Report & Activity – Nuno Aghdassi (President)

The AGM was opened by Nuno Aghdassi, ESASI President, introducing the ESASI Committee and their roles in ESASI. The Committee was reinforced with the election of Paula Dugdale who joined early 2024.

Nuno sought approval of the 2023 AGM report, which had been sent out by Olivier Ferrante (Secretary) on 3 June 2023 and resent on 18 September 2024. There was no dissent, and the 2023 AGM report was accepted by the AGM.

Nuno then described ESASI activities since the 2023 Seminar in Bratislava:

- FocusOn... Communicating with families, 15 November 2023
- ESASI elections and re-arrangement of roles, January 2024
- Regular meeting held every 2 weeks and other activity meetings held in between
- Main focus on organising ISASI 2024
- FocusOn... Behind the Flight Deck Door, 29 May 2024
- Increase in number of individual members affiliated with ESASI
- New corporate members affiliated with ESASI: Aer Lingus, Turkish Airlines
- Improving how we communicate
- Release of 2 Newsletters (including a summary of the ESASI 2023 proceedings)
- Support to Military Air Safety Investigators (MASI) group

#### ESASI Financial Update – Matt Greaves (Treasurer)

Matt reported on the final accounting for the in-person 2023 Bratislava seminar and for the ISASI 2024 prepayments.

At the end of 2023, this left ESASI with £8,583 on hand. The Lisbon Seminar should generate a profit to support future ESASI seminars

#### ISASI Update – Rob Carter (ISASI VP & Membership chair)

Rob provided an update on ISASI He started with the past, present and future ISASI Seminars:

2022 – Brisbane, Queensland – hybrid

2023 – Nashville, Tennessee

2024 – Lisbon, Portugal (with ESASI)

2025 – Denver, Colorado – Renaissance Marriott, Denver

2026 – Dubai, UAE -

The 2025 ISASI Seminar will be held in Denver, Colorado (instead of Cambridge near Boston, Mass). It will be directly organized by ISASI (no profit sharing).

According to Eric Prince, the recent ISASI treasurer, ISASI membership & finances are 'both recovering from Covid'. Rob also reported on the membership management system, which needs to be further improved (at the level of a software called Wild Apricot). The ISASI Council Meeting (ICM) also reviewed changes in membership dues and outcomes.

Rob added that ESASI is well represented within ISASI:

**Thorkell Agustsson** European Councilor on ISASI 'International Council'

**Olivier Ferrante** ISASI Vice President from mid-October 2024

**Rob Carter** Departing ISASI Vice President (2020-2024) but remains ISASI Membership Chair (rob.carter@isasi.org)

### **ESASI membership – Olivier Ferrante (ESASI Secretary)**

On Membership, Olivier reported that there are currently some 203 ESASI Members (i.e. ISASI Members within Europe) and some 32 ESASI Corporate Members, which include State Investigation Authorities, Airlines, Manufacturers, MROs, Universities and Suppliers. It represents an increase of 18% compared to the previous year.

He also pointed out that two airlines joined ESASI since AGM2023: Aer Lingus and Turkish Airlines. New ESASI members are invited to send a short introduction for the ESASI NewsLetter.

The renewal process of ISASI/ESASI members should be enhanced in the upcoming months.

### **ESASI events and projects – Kate Fitzgerald and Paula Dugdale**

Kate and Paula spoke about the 'FocusOn...' on-line webinars, delivered by ZOOM, courtesy of the Iceland SIA. These are two-hour virtual meetings with a strong international participation. Since the 2023 AGM, ESASI organized two webinars: on 15 November 2023 'FocusOn...Communicating with Families' and on 29 May 2024 'FocusOn...Behind the Flight Deck Door'. The first one dealt with victims and their relatives about informing them on the safety investigation process and progress. The latest one covered a wide range of topics related to cabin safety.

The next FocusOn... should be on the investigation of Safety Management Systems. It should be held in early 2025.



Arben also informed the AGM about the new website for ESASI, being under development by a small ESASI team.

**Information Elections – Olivier Ferrante**

Olivier reminded the AGM of the ESASI Constitution of January 2021, when ESASI became a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This Constitution was endorsed unanimously at the first AGM, in July 2021. The first elections were held in November 2021, on-line, resulting (January 2022) in enlargement of the ESASI Committee ('Charity Trustees') from 6 to 10 members.

*'Every two years, one-third of the charity Trustees shall retire from office or stand for re-election'* so in November 2023 there were on-line elections for three Committee members ('Charity Trustees'), with two existing members standing for re-election (Steve Hull previously left).

There were three candidates for three positions, so Paula Dugdale joined the ESASI Committee in January 2024.

The next elections will be held in November 2025.

**Q&A and Conclusions – Nuno Aghdassi**

Nuno then invited Questions and Suggestions. He mentioned that the next ESASI newsletter will notably contain a summary of ISASI 2024. He closed the meeting saying that the next in-person meeting of the ESASI AGM will be at the ESASI 2025 Seminar in Vienna, Austria. Looking to ESASI 2025, Nuno showed a map of the locations of previous ESASI meetings, welcoming suggestions for the 2026 seminar. He then invited participants to fill in the Feedback forms, which are always helpful.

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