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PRESS RELEASE

AZERBAIJAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, AND YUGOSLAVIA UNANIMOUSLY ADMITTED AS MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

Paris, 27 November 2002 — During a Special Plenary Session (ECAC/26(SP)), Directors General from 38 ECAC¹ Member States admitted three more States as members of ECAC. With **Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Yugoslavia**, ECAC now counts 41 Member States, giving the organisation a truly pan-European profile.

Founded in 1955 by nineteen States with the objective of promoting the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system, ECAC has been joined by nineteen central and eastern European States since June 1990. An application for membership from Georgia has also been received and its accession is expected for 2003.

“I can say on behalf of all my colleagues that we are very pleased that so many countries have expressed their desire to join ECAC in recent years” said Alfredo Roma, ECAC President. He bid a warm welcome to the high-level representatives of the three States. “We should acknowledge the great strides that these new Member States have made, and in some cases the extreme difficulties they have had to overcome, both internal and external, before applying to join ECAC” he continued, and voiced his belief that ECAC could be proud of its role in assisting the newer Member States to take their place in the European civil aviation family.

The three new States expressed their satisfaction at now belonging to the largest European organisation dealing with civil aviation. They confirmed their administrations' support and willingness to contribute to achieving the objectives of ECAC.

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¹ The following 41 States are members of ECAC: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.