



Forwarding Welfare?

The role of air cargo in future aviation policy and economics

Celebrating 25 years of EAC

Luxembourg, 29th November – 1st December 2023

EAC Policy Days: 29th - 30th Nov.

Location: Chamber of Commerce; Kirchberg

EAC Research Day (formerly AMEC) 1st Dec.

Location: The University of Luxembourg; Kirchberg Campus

Program committee members:

- Benny Mantin, Professor of Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Director, Luxembourg Centre for Logistics and Supply Chain Management (LCL), University of Luxembourg
- Thomas Immelmann, A&OConsult
- Charles Stotler, Professor of Practice and Director, Center for Air and Space Law, UM Law
- Carlos Grau Tanner, Director General at Global Express Association
- Benjamin Bierwith, Professor at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and Managing Director, Avistics GmbH
- Anne Lange, Professor in Management, Logistics, Aviation, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences
- Bill Hemmings, Director, Rosetta Advisory Services
- Cortney Robinson, Air Transport Officer, Air Cargo, The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Day 1: Policy Day I

9am Opening session: welcome

Opening + EAC overview

Place holder for welcome words from Government (Prime Minister/Ministry of Mobility and Public Works/Ministry of Tourism), ICAO, University (possibly Dean)/ Cargolux

9:30am

Session 1: Scene-setting panel. Air cargo suddenly under the spotlight

Air cargo was hardly ever the protagonist of air transport policies. Yet, the COVID-19 pandemic cast a bright light on its importance and that of logistics in general, in a way that no other policy discussion ever has managed to do. While passenger traffic ground to a halt, all-cargo and express operators, as well as passenger planes swiftly turned into 'freighters', kept hospitals stocked around the world and bore the brunt of international vaccine distribution.

Looking ahead, global geopolitical changes are upending long-held tenets on international trade, which may lead to important shifts in supply chains in the next few years, and indeed the resurgence of trade blocks and protectionism. What does this all mean for air transport policies, and how should they adapt, especially with regard to air cargo?

This session will explore the recent trends in air cargo during and after the pandemic, and set the scene for more detailed discussions on policy implications during the conference.

Chair: Andrew Charlton, Managing director, Aviation Advocacy

Speakers:

- Glyn Hughes, TIACA's Director General
- Maxim Straus, CFO, Cargolux
- Chris Grames, Managing Director Product Strategy at Boeing

10:30am Session 2: The global role of air freight in trade

A significant and growing proportion of international trade is now carried by air. How large is this market, and what are its components? What are, and what are likely to be the main barriers to this trade? What are the implications of greater strategic competition between trade blocs, such as China and the US/Europe? Will there be less trade, or mainly a shift in the direction of flows? To what extent will developing countries be affected? How will freight hubs such as Hong Kong, Luxemburg and Schiphol be affected?

Chair: Cortney Robinson, Air Transport Officer, Air Cargo, The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Speakers:

- Dr. Bright Okogu, Chef de Cabinet of the Director-General, WTO
- Brian Pearce, Former IATA Chief Economist and visiting professor, Cranfield University
- Steve Altman, Adjunct Assistant Professor and Director, Center for the Future of Management, DHL Initiative on Globalization, NYU
- Turhan Ozen, Chief Cargo Officer, Turkish Airlines

11:20am: Coffee break

11:40am Session 3: “Fireside chat with ICAO on global crisis response, traffic rights, and other air cargo priorities”

Chair: Charles Stotler, Professor of Practice and Director, Center for Air and Space Law, UM Law

Speaker: Mohamed Khalifa Rahma, Director, Air Transport Bureau, ICAO

12:25 Lunch Break

14:00 Session 4: Air services agreements

Traditionally all-cargo services have attracted less attention and been less controversial than their passenger equivalents in international air service negotiations. This may explain why significant liberalisation of all-cargo services has often preceded more general reform, for example in the United States prior to deregulation and in Europe before the creation of the EU internal aviation market. All-cargo Seventh Freedom services are also a feature of many, but certainly not all, open skies bilateral agreements. With further liberalisation of passenger services apparently stalling, the question arises whether all-cargo services can again lead the way. A panel of experts in international negotiations will discuss whether this is feasible and the likelihood of success.

Chair: Barry Humphries, Aviation Consultant, BKH Aviation Ltd

Speakers:

- Carlos Bermejo Acosta, Head of Unit, Aviation Agreements, DG Move
- Mark Bosly, UK Chief Air Services Negotiator at Dept of Transport and Chair of the ICAO Air Transportation Regulation Panel
- Vann Chanty, Director General, General Department of Air Transport Policy and Regulations, State Secretariat of Civil Aviation (SSCA) (Representing Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN)
- Roque Felizardo Da Silva Neto, Manager of Market Access Branch at the Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil (ANA) (Representing LACAC)

15:00 Session 5: E-commerce and the Digital Economy – How Digital Transport and Trade are Poised to Increase Efficiency Across the Supply Chain

Already showing robust growth pre-pandemic, the closure of physical marketplaces due to pandemic restrictions forced many consumers to transition to e-commerce solutions for daily life, thus introducing them to the digital economy. Despite economic uncertainty, e-commerce growth is now far ahead of pre-pandemic projections yet the supply chain—across all modes of transport—relies on outdated, paper-driven processes and cannot keep pace with growth without compromising safety, security and efficiency. This panel will examine how e-commerce is impacting air cargo, as well as other modes, and how stakeholders are collaborating to increase supply chain efficiency through digital transformation of information exchange, both B-to-B and B-to-G.

Questions:

- How has e-commerce changed the air cargo landscape and what are the future prospects?
- How does air cargo fit into the digital economy and how must the sector adapt?
- Who benefits in digital transformation of the supply chain and what are the risks of being left behind?
- Concerning information exchange, what are regulators requiring of other stakeholders and what must they provide?

Chair: Arnaud Lambert, Chief Executive Officer, LuxProvide

Speakers:

- Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Steven Pope, Chair of the ICC Global Trade & Investment Policy Commission and Vice President, Group Head Trade Facilitation - Go Trade, Deutsche Post DHL Group
- Chris McDermott, CEO, Champ Cargosystems
- Nico De Cauwer, Secretary General, International Port Community System Association

15:50: Coffee break

16:15 Session 6: Emerging business models and multi-modality and supply chain integration

The traditional models of air freight are being challenged as old models are being rethought and new market entrants with different models are emerging. Challenges to the ecosystem emerge from several directions. For instance, maritime companies, such as Maersk, are entering this segment by providing end-to-end solutions, and Amazon, who wet leases and own some freighters to serve its own operations. What are the dynamics that are likely to play out? What policy implications emerge? Is there room for everyone?

Chair: Wouter Dewulf, Associate Professor, University of Antwerp

Speakers:

- David Gillen, Professor, UBC
- Margi Van Gogh, Head of Supply Chain & Transport Industries, World Economic Forum
- Ferwin Wieringa, Global Head of Air Freight, Maersk

17:00 Session 7: Special request from EB: "Air Freight, Trade and the Global South"

This session will consider the connection between the cargo industry and wider economic policy issues such as international trade and economic development, including from the perspective of the Global South. In recent years, the economic analysis of international trade has been extended to place more emphasis on the distributional and welfare aspects of trade. The session participants are established researchers in the trade and related areas, including in regard to Africa. The session participants have been invited to offer observations and responses, if they wish, to sessions that will have taken place earlier on Day One.

Chair: Ken Button, George Mason University

Speakers:

- Gianmaria Martina, University of Bologna
- Eric Nyoja, University of Huddersfield

17:40 End of Day 1 (Policy Day I)**18:30 – Gala Dinner**

Gala dinner: At Belvedere, walking dinner

Program:

- Perspectives on 25 years: David Gillen
- Awards session: Achim Czerny
- Next host candidate: Wouter Dewulf

Day 2: Policy Day II

9am Session 0: Opening remarks and review of Day 1

9:15 am Session 1: Martin Kunz Lecture - Thomas Klein, Cargolux, “what have I learned about air cargo in the past 3 years that I did not know in the previous 30 years”

Chair: Thomas Immelmann, A&OConsult

Speaker: Thomas Klein, Vice President, business intelligence and corporate controlling, Cargolux

10am Session 2. European air freight: Looking back and forward

One-on-one interview with DG MOVE, Director for Aviation, Filip Cornelis, and Simon Wright, The Economist

Chair: Simon Wright, The Economist

Speaker: Filip Cornelis, Director, DG MOVE

10:45 a short break

11:15 Session 3: A session by the International Transport Forum at the OECD: What future for the freight sector?

The ITF will present its long-term global freight projections for different decarbonisation scenarios, based on the modelling work underpinning the [ITF Transport Outlook 2023](#). The focus of this presentation will be on the role of aviation in transport decarbonisation pathways. The tested scenarios will be discussed along with their implications for the global aviation sector, focusing on policy and technology.

This session will feature a 20-minute ITF address followed by a Q&A with the audience.

Speakers:

- Luis Martinez, OECD/ITF/RC
- Andrea Papu Carrone, OECD/ITF/RC

11:45 Session 4: Air freight and climate impacts

Air cargo accounts for about 40% of world trade by value. At the same time whether belly hold or dedicated freighter, sending goods by air is many times more carbon intensive than transportation by ship, road or rail. But decarbonisation requirements do not generally distinguish between passenger and freighter aircraft. This session will firstly assess progress on Fit for 55 legislation in the EU covering the aviation sector and then explore some specific industry airfreight initiatives.

Chair: Anna Straubinger, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research

Speakers:

- Marcos Gonzalez Alvarez, DG CLIMA
- Stefan Grebe, CE Delft
- Laurent Donceel, Acting Director, A4E
- Bill Hemmings, Director, Rosetta Advisory Services

12:45 Lunch Break + intro by Jens Hujer (Heilbronn University of Applied Sciences) to The Poster Session

Posters session as part of the break

14:15 Session 5: Infrastructure and operational challenges in air cargo logistics

What are current challenges and opportunities in air cargo logistics? What are lessons learned from the pandemic? How will air cargo logistics move toward lower emissions and more sustainable operations? How can European policy harmonization support developing air cargo logistics further?

Chair: Anne Lange, Professor in Management, Logistics, Aviation, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences

Speakers:

- Dr. Christian Lehr, Senior Director Global Fulfillment Lufthansa Cargo
- Hendrik Bender, Vice President Group Sales, Business Development and Marketing at Sovereign Speed GmbH
- Ram Menon, Chief Commercial Officer Wallenborn Group
- Daniel Kohl, Director, Cluster for Logistics (C4L), Luxembourg

15:15 Session 6: The Scope for Drones

Will we see cargo drones in the near future? Where is the market heading? How can these unmanned aerial vehicles co-exist in the already congested air space?

The panel will discuss operational capabilities and business models as well as regulatory aspects to ensure continuous air space safety.

Chair: Benjamin Bierwirth, Professor at Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and Managing Director, Avistics GmbH

Speakers:

- Tiago Lopes, Lead aviation engineer, European Investment Bank
- Tim Hermes, Senior Manager Business Development, Droniq GmbH
- Severina Grozeva-Patrone, Director of Global Communications & PR, Dronamics
- Luc Antoon, UTM Manager, Skeyes Belgian ATC

16:15: A short break

16:45: The Tretheway debate: “Has liberalisation peaked?”

Will trend towards greater liberalisation continue or are we going to see more government regulation of aviation – e.g., the slot reduction at AMS and govt policy on short haul travel, etc.

Chair: Ian Kincaid, Senior Vice President, Forecasting and Economics at InterVISTAS Consulting

Speakers:

- Brian Pearce, Former IATA Chief Economist and visiting professor, Cranfield University
- Steven Truxal, Professor and Director, International Institute of Air and Space Law (IIASL) at Leiden University
- Barry Humphreys, Aviation Consultant, BKH Aviation Ltd
- Mark Rodmell, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECAC

17:30: Concluding remarks

After 2 days of presentations, panels, and lively discussions, we will conclude with a brief summary of the main take aways from the conference, some of the lessons learned, points for future research and further pathway leading to next year’s EAC.

17:40: Policy Days end

18:00 EAC board meeting

Day 3: EAC Research Day

8:00-8:30 Registration

8.45-9.15 Plenary Session 1. Keynote: Tae Hoon Oum, University of British Columbia

Future transport research requirements

Views on the future transport research needs in the changing global economic and political environment accounting for aviation policy issues.

9.15 Plenary Session 2. Panel Discussion: lessons learned from the Policy Days and facilitation of research agenda.

Chair: Benny Martin

Panelists:

- Cortney Robinson, ICAO
- David Gillen, University of British Columbia
- Charles Stotler, The University of Mississippi
- Achim Czerny, HK PolyU

10.15 Break (15 minutes)

10.45-12.25 Parallel Sessions #1

12.25-13.25 Lunch & Poster Session

13:30-14.10 Plenary Session 3. Keynote: Rico Merkert, The University of Sydney

Benchmarking airline performance and the role of air cargo

Holistic airline benchmarking involves commercial, operational and sustainability performance indicators. While this has been done for passenger airline operations, air cargo inputs into the production process of airlines have been largely ignored. This paper shows why air cargo matters in this context beyond its elevated importance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

14.15-16.20 Parallel Sessions #2

Parallel Sessions (transition time five minutes)

The first presenter will be the Chair for the Session: 25 minutes per paper (20 minutes plus five minutes of discussion). The last session is presented by a PhD student.

16.30 GARS Annual Board Meeting