Final Agenda

High-Level Regional Aviation Safety Conference 2026

Regional Conflicts and Aviation Safety

Building Aviation Resilience in Europe and the Middle East

6 November 2026, Cleopatra Hotel, Nicosia, Cyprus

*Organised by the **Flight Safety Foundation – Southeast Europe – Cyprus***
*with the support of the **Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus.***

Conference Overview

The aviation sector is operating in an increasingly complex geopolitical environment, characterised by regional conflicts, airspace restrictions, cyber threats, GNSS interference and rapidly evolving security challenges. Recent developments in Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East have reinforced the need for stronger preparedness, closer international cooperation and more resilient aviation systems.

*Against this backdrop, the **Flight Safety Foundation – Southeast Europe – Cyprus** is organising this High-Level Regional Aviation Safety Conference to bring together senior representatives from international organisations, European institutions, governments, civil aviation authorities, airports, airlines, air navigation service providers, industry and aviation professionals.*

*Through two high-level thematic panels and a High-Level Regional Roundtable bringing together senior representatives of Civil Aviation Authorities and other relevant national aviation institutions, the Conference will examine **strategic and operational challenges, exchange practical experiences and identify recommendations to strengthen aviation safety, crisis preparedness, operational resilience and regional cooperation**.*

Time	Programme – Opening Ceremony
09:00–09:30	Registration, Welcome Coffee & Networking
09:30–09:50	Opening Ceremony • Welcome by the **President, Flight Safety Foundation – Southeast Europe – Cyprus, Chrysanthos Hadjichrysanthou.** • Opening Address by **H.E. the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus, Evie Tsolaki**
09:50–10:00	**Honorary Award Ceremony** Presentation of the Flight Safety Foundation – Southeast Europe – Cyprus **Honorary Award to MEP Costas Mavrides,** in recognition of his longstanding contribution to the promotion of aviation safety. *Award to be presented by the Minister of Transport, Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus
10:00–10:10	Opening Video Message – **ECAC** **Alessio Quaranta, President of the European Civil Aviation Conference** "Strengthening Aviation Safety and Resilience through European and Regional Cooperation"

10:10–10:15 - Press Statements (Minister, MEP and FSF President)

10:15–11:30 | Panel 1

Regional Conflicts and their Implications for Civil Aviation Safety

Focus on: *Understanding how regional conflicts are reshaping the global aviation safety landscape and identifying the strategic measures required to mitigate emerging operational risks.*

Moderator: Nicolas Lyrakides, Secretary, FSF–SE Europe–Cyprus

❖ **Scene-setting Address – Steven Moore, Head of Network Operations – EUROCONTROL**
"Managing Europe's Aviation Network in Times of Regional Instability: Safety, Airspace and Resilience"
❖ **Aviation Industry Insights – Alex Vathylakis, Principal Valuations Analyst, Cirium**
"Regional Conflicts and Aviation Operations: Impacts on Traffic Flows, Connectivity and Resilience"

- **Olga Toki, IFATCA Team Europe Member** - *professional ATM perspective*
- **Kobi Zussman, IATA Country Manager Israel –** *airlines/ regional operational perspective*
- **Captain Zacharias Irodotou, TUS Airways -** *professional flight crew perspective*

Q&A (10 min)

Key topics

- ✓ *The evolving global and European aviation safety environment*
- ✓ *Conflict zones, airspace restrictions and dynamic airspace management*
- ✓ *Risk assessment and timely information sharing*
- ✓ *Safety oversight and operational decision-making during periods of regional instability*
- ✓ *International coordination between States, organisations and operational stakeholders*
- ✓ *Lessons learned from recent geopolitical crises*
- ✓ *Future priorities for strengthening aviation resilience*

----------**11:30–12:00: Coffee Break**----------

12:00–13:15 | Panel 2

Crisis Management and Business Continuity – Strengthening Operational Aviation Resilience

Focus on: *How aviation stakeholders prepare for, respond to and recover from major regional disruptions while ensuring the continuity of safe, secure and efficient operations.*

Moderator: Antonis Theodorides, Vice President, FSF-SE Europe-Cyprus

❖ **Scene-setting Address – Haris Antoniades, CEO, Cyprus ANSP**
'Building Aviation Resilience Through Regional Cooperation'

- **Major Nikolas Kollakides, Head of Section, Crisis Management Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus -** *national crisis-management perspective*
- **Miltos Miltiadous, COO, Hermes Airports –** *airport operational perspective*
- **Thanos Pascalis, CEO, Cyprus Airways –** *airline management and business continuity perspective*
- **Stelios Pittakas, Director of Flight Operations, TUS Airways –** *flight operations and operational decision-making perspective*

Q&A (10 min)

Key topics

- ✓ *National crisis-management arrangements and multi-agency coordination*
- ✓ *Airport operational continuity and contingency planning*
- ✓ *Air traffic management resilience and management of rapidly changing traffic flows*

- ✓ *Airline contingency planning, rerouting and operational decision-making*
- ✓ *Business continuity and organisational preparedness*
- ✓ *Cybersecurity and GNSS interference*
- ✓ *Information sharing and coordination between authorities and operational stakeholders*
- ✓ *Building resilient aviation systems through preparedness, cooperation and lessons learned*

13:15–14:15: Networking Lunch

14:15–14:25 | Honorary Award in Memory of Christos Petrou

Presentation of an **Honorary Award in memory of Christos Petrou,** who served as **Executive Director of the Foundation from 2008 to 2025** and made an outstanding contribution to its establishment, development and advancement.

**Award to be presented to his family by the President of the Foundation.*

14:25–15:45 | High-Level Regional Roundtable

Regional Experiences and Lessons Learned

Theme: Building Aviation Resilience through Regional Cooperation

Moderator: Chrysanthos Hadjichrysanthou, President, FSF–SE Europe–Cyprus

Participating States and Representatives: Senior representatives of Civil Aviation Authorities and relevant national aviation institutions from countries across the wider region.

- ❖ **Cyprus – Haris Antoniades**, Acting Director of Civil Aviation
- ❖ **Egypt – Captain Mohammed El-Shorbagy,** Counsellor to the President of the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority for Legislation
- ❖ **Greece – Dimitrios-Nikolaos Christopoulos,** Adviser to the Governor, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority (HCAA)
- ❖ **Israel – Shmuel Zakay**, Head, Civil Aviation Authority of Israel
- ❖ **Malta – Charles Pace**, Director General for Civil Aviation, Transport Malta

Guiding questions

- ➢ *What have been the principal civil aviation challenges experienced during recent periods of regional instability?*
- ➢ *Which measures proved most effective in maintaining safe and resilient operations?*
- ➢ *What were the principal lessons learned?*
- ➢ *What improvements in preparedness, coordination and information sharing remain necessary?*
- ➢ *How can cooperation among Civil Aviation Authorities and other aviation stakeholders across the wider region be strengthened?*
- ➢ *What practical recommendations should guide future crisis preparedness and aviation resilience?*

Format: Short introductory interventions followed by a moderated high-level exchange.

---**15:45–16:00: Coffee Break**---

16:00–16:30 | Conference Conclusions and Emerging Safety Recommendations

The Moderators will present the principal conclusions and emerging recommendations from the Conference discussions, with particular emphasis on:

- ***Aviation safety***
- ***Crisis preparedness***
- ***Operational resilience***
- ***Business continuity***
- ***Regional cooperation***
- ***Future collaborative initiatives***

*The **key messages, conclusions and recommendations** of the Conference will subsequently be consolidated and shared with **participants and relevant European and international aviation organisations and institutions.***

16:30–16:45: Closing Remarks and Next Steps