



## ICAO Council condemns Belarus over 2021 Ryanair flight bomb threat and diversion

For immediate release

**Montréal, 19 July 2022** – The ICAO Council concluded its discussions yesterday on the May 2021 incident in Belarus airspace involving Ryanair Flight FR4978, condemning the actions of the Government of Belarus in committing an act of unlawful interference.

The latest updates to the [ICAO fact-finding investigation report](#) into the incident benefited from new information and materials following the Council's initial consideration of the report in January 2022, as well as an interview and audio recordings from the Minsk air traffic controller assigned to the flight.

Following its consideration of the completed fact-finding results, the ICAO Council acknowledged that the bomb threat against Ryanair Flight FR4978 was deliberately false and endangered its safety, and furthermore that the threat was communicated to the flight crew upon the instructions of senior government officials of Belarus.

The Council Representative for the Russian Federation meanwhile expressed his State's strong objection to identifying Belarus as the source of the unlawful interference which took place.

The Council expressed appreciation to the ICAO fact finding investigation team for its strenuous efforts and comprehensive analysis and reiterated its condemnation of the communication of false information endangering the safety of an aircraft in flight is an offence under the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the safety of Civil Aviation* (Montreal Convention).

The Council also recalled that the use of civil aviation in this manner contravenes the spirit of the *Convention on International Civil Aviation* (Chicago Convention), in particular its *Preamble* and *Article 4*.

In terms of next steps, the Council has directed ICAO to convey the FR4978 report findings to all ICAO Member States, to report the infractions of the Chicago Convention by Belarus to the ICAO Assembly during its upcoming 41<sup>st</sup> Session (27 Sept. – 7 Oct. 2022), and to post the report for public and media access on the agency's website.

It further requested the President of the Council to forward the fact-finding investigation report, and the Council's related decisions thereon, to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres for consideration and any appropriate action.

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## Resources for Editors

### **Article 4 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention):**

Each contracting State agrees not to use civil aviation for any purpose inconsistent with the aims of this Convention.

### **About ICAO**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a United Nations agency which helps 193 countries to cooperate together and share their skies to their mutual benefit.

Since it was established in 1944, ICAO's support and coordination has helped countries to diplomatically and technically realize a uniquely rapid and dependable network of global air mobility, connecting families, cultures, and businesses all over the world, and promoting sustainable growth and socio-economic prosperity wherever aircraft fly.

As it enters a new era of digitization, and of incredible new flight and propulsion innovations, air transport is relying more than ever on ICAO's expert support and technical and diplomatic guidance to help chart a new and exciting future for international flight. ICAO is innovating itself to answer this call, and expanding its partnerships among UN and technical stakeholders to deliver a strategic global vision and effective, sustainable solutions.

## General Contact

[communications@icao.int](mailto:communications@icao.int)

Twitter: [@ICAO](https://twitter.com/ICAO)

## Media Contact

### **William Raillant-Clark**

Communications Officer

[wraillantclark@icao.int](mailto:wraillantclark@icao.int)

+1 514-954-6705

+1 514-409-0705 (mobile)

Twitter: [@wraillantclark](https://twitter.com/wraillantclark)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/raillantclark/)