

Update on the Progress of the European Helicopter Safety Team (EHEST) June 2009

by EHSAT co-chairs Michel Masson, EASA, and Andy Evans, AviateQ

3rd 2009 meeting of the European Helicopter Safety Analysis Team on 22 June

The 3rd 2009 meeting of the EHSAT took place on June 22nd in the Eurocopter site of Marignane in conjunction with the 3rd meeting of the EHSIT and the 1st meeting of the EHEST.

The EHSAT Regional Teams (RTs) continue to analyse helicopters accidents in Europe between 2000 and 2005. While the preliminary report was limited to 186 accidents analysed up to September 2008, the EHSAT database now contains 334 accidents of which 288 are in the timeframe 2000-2005. The analysis of those 6 years is expected to be completed beginning of 2010. The Regional Teams will continue to analyse accidents reports on the pace of one year of accidents per year to expand the database for further analysis.

3rd meeting of the European Helicopter Safety Implementation Team on 22-23 June 2009

The 3rd meeting of the EHSIT took place on June 22nd and 23rd morning.

The EHSIT is tasked with processing the intervention recommendations produced by the EHSAT and to develop, implement and monitor safety enhancement action plans across Europe. These action plans will contribute to achieving the IHST objective of reducing the accident rate by 80% by 2016. An ambitious and comprehensive implementation scheme is key for success.

In this 3rd meeting, the EHSIT performed the complex task exercise of aggregating at European level of the intervention recommendations on 'Training' and on 'Operations and SMS' using a process defined in the February meeting. These two areas contained more individual interventions than any other. Aggregation work also started on 'Regulatory' aspects, the 3rd priority topic.



Aggregated interventions on 'Operations and SMS' and 'Training' will be transferred to two Specialists Teams (STs) currently being formed. These STs will further process this material and develop implementation strategy and actions plans using a process similar to the one used by the Joint Helicopter Safety Implementation Team (JHSIT) in the US.

The EHSIT Communication Sub Group paves the way for efficient communication towards General Aviation

The Communication Sub Group's mission is to define a process to efficiently communicate to the helicopter community, in particular to small operators and General Aviation (GA) - a goal shared with the [European General Aviation Safety Team \(EGAST\)](#), another Safety Team of the European Strategic Safety Initiative (ESSI).

EHSIT and EGAST indeed share the same objective to:

- Benchmark the different ways to communicate to GA pilots (fixed wing or helicopter);
- Benchmark the different ways to communicate to small operators;
- Define the best way to communicate to GA pilots and small operators;
- And to develop a method suitable for monitoring action plans.

1st 2009 meeting of the European Helicopter Safety Team on 24 June

The 1st 2009 meeting of the EHEST took place on the 24th afternoon.

EHEST is the decision making body. EHEST is both the rotorcraft component of the ESSI and the European component of the IHST.

Gunter Carloff, Executive Director of the European Helicopter Association (EHA) was unanimously approved as industry co-chair of the EHSIT. Active support and participation from the industry, in particular from the operators, is indeed essential to the success of the implementation phase - the next challenge for the EHEST.

EHEST is actively seeking new participants for the EHSIT, EHSIT Specialist Teams, and Communication Sub-Group. All who are interested are encouraged to contact the EHEST Secretariat by sending an email to EHEST@easa.europa.eu.

International Conferences

EHSAT co-chair M. Masson, EASA, presented the initiative in the AHS Forum 65 that took place on 27th - 29th May in Grapevine, Texas.

The latest EHSAT and EHSIT results will be presented at the International Helicopter Safety Symposium (IHSS 09) in Montreal on Sep 29th - Oct 1st. <http://www.ihst.org/>.

Other planned events are the 35th European Rotorcraft Forum (ERF 09) on Sep 22nd - 25th Sep in Hamburg, Germany, and the 3rd EASA Rotorcraft Symposium in Dec (dates to be defined), in Cologne, Germany. http://www.easa.europa.eu/ws_prod/g/g_events.php

Background information

The EHEST brings together helicopter manufacturers, operators, regulators, helicopter and pilots associations, research organisations, accident investigators and military operators from across Europe. EHEST has members from organisations including: Eurocopter, Agusta Westland, EASA, UK CAA, MoD UK DASC, DGAC France, BEA France, ENAC Italy, CAA Norway, FOCA CH, EHA, EHOCA, EHAC, QinetiQ, RAeS, Irish AAIB, AIB Hungary, UK AAIB, BFU Germany, Bristow Group, CHC, Shell Aircraft Ltd, NLR, DLR, AviateQ Int., APYTHEL, AIB and CAA Spain, Swiss Helicopter Association, etc.

EHEST addresses the broad spectrum of helicopter operations across Europe; from

commercial air transport to General Aviation and flight training activities. EHEST brings together around 130 participants, from which around 70 are actively involved in the analysis and implementation work.



Governance:

- **EHEST co-Chairs:** John Vincent, EASA, John Black, EHOCA, and Jean-Pierre Dedieu, Eurocopter.
- **EHSAT Co-Chairs:** Michel Masson, EASA, and Andy Evans, AviateQ International.
- **EHSIT Co-Chairs:** Gunter Carloff, EHA, and Michel Masson (acting), EASA.

For further information please contact: EHEST@easa.europa.eu