



IFALDA Members Update

January 20th, 2026

Happy New Year to all our members. This update will speak to a strong 2025 and another anticipated great year for IFALDA in 2026.

Our AGM was held May 6-8th in Lisbon, Portugal. The event featured Great Speakers on several topics including Artificial Intelligence, FF-ICE (Flight & Flow Information for a Collaborative Environment) & an interesting presentation from the Portuguese Civil Aviation Authority (ANAC) on Flight Dispatch roles within Portugal. A special thank you to our own Tiago Ludgero for arranging tours & culinary events in his hometown of Lisbon.

Following the AGM, I attended the ICAO WG10 meetings in Gatwick, England. This gathering continued the process of developing Competency Based Training (CBT) for Flight Dispatchers & amending the ICAO annexes pertaining to Flight Dispatcher Training, Standards & Licencing. The group meets regularly as the process continues with steady progress.

In August, our Vice President East, Marc Soussou attended the ICAO NGAP (Next Generation of Aviation Professionals) in Durban, South Africa. Marc brought a strong Flight Dispatch influence to the meetings, which are held annually.

In September, Richard Yeates & Bernard Gonsalves attended the 42nd ICAO Assembly. This gathering is held every three years. We presented Information papers on Artificial Intelligence & the Global Harmonization of Flight Planning. Copies of the reports will be made available on the website

In October, I made an IFALDA presentation at the Airline Dispatchers Federation Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada. I included a presentation on the IATA FOX project (Flight Operations Data Exchange), which I'm involved with. The FOX project is the data gathering of Operational Flight Plans (OFP's) for industry use.

We celebrated the 4th annual World Flight Dispatchers Day on November 1st, 2025. The day featured several online posts & considerable recognitions across the industry.

I have been nominated & accepted as a member of the ICAO Flight Ops Panel. This panel reviews & approves changes to the ICAO Annexes. It is very significant to have a Flight Dispatcher as part of this team.

We are excited to once again announce our collaboration with Eurocontrol for the upcoming Flight Dispatcher Days in Brussels from March 17-18th, 2026. This event represents a significant opportunity for us to showcase our commitment to the industry and enhance our professional community. This is the second consecutive year of our collaboration effort

As per last year's message, we encourage our members to consider future roles in areas such as FF ICE (Flight & Flow Information for a Collaborative Environment), Trajectory Based Operations, Artificial Intelligence, and RPAS (Remotely Piloted Systems), and we always appreciate assistance with website and administrative support. Your engagement is invaluable to our mission!

Mark your calendars for the 2026 AGM, scheduled for May 5-7 at the DFW Marriott, Dallas, Texas. Registration details are available on our website at www.ifalda.org, and we look forward to connecting with all members during this pivotal event. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ Williams', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Russ Williams
IFALDA President
rwilliams@ifalda.org