

Convention Newsletter No1



MALTA CONVENTION 2016
3-5 MARCH

Promoting Excellence and Safety at Airshows



2016 Convention Invitation

On behalf of the Chairman and Board members of the European Air Show Council, it is my great pleasure to invite you to the 2016 EAC Convention, to be held over the 3-5th March 2016. Our forthcoming convention is returning to the roots of EAC, when in its infancy moved from country to country each year, with the 2016 convention being held on the island of Malta.

We are confident that the choice of venue will be an excellent host for the convention and that our high quality speakers will again, provide an interesting and informative insight into the Airshow Industry. Following tragic events in the UK during 2015, safety will be a key theme, perhaps more so than ever before. We are privileged to welcome delegates and speakers from across the world, who are at the heart of the industry.

Charles Skiera, EAC Executive

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The EAC started with just 30 delegates over 10 years ago and has now grown to a truly international event with over 200 delegates attending from across the world, from all backgrounds in the Airshow Industry. We have been fortunate to attract some truly inspirational speakers over time, with many interesting, engaging and highly entertaining presentations. This year's convention promises to be equally useful as we look towards safety in an even greater light than normal.



© TOM HOUQUET
Delegates gather for Presentations in the main convention hall.



What is the EAC's mission and who should attend?

- The aim of the EAC is to **"Promote excellence and safety at Airshows"**
- The EAC Board has a Chairman from Belgium and Board members from France, Greece, Malta, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain, Poland and the UK.
- The European Airshow Council is open to everyone involved in the Airshow world including Display pilots, Performers, Organizers, Military and Civil Authorities.



What is the EAC?

The European Airshow Council was formed in 2001 to bring together members of the Airshow Industry from across Europe to promote Excellence and Safety across the European Airshow Industry. Utilizing best practice, skill and knowledge from all sectors of the industry, the EAC is now a leading contributor in Europe in both terms of support and experience and is seen as the leading body in supporting European Airshow Regulation through EASA.

Air14 Payerne will be a tough act to follow for any organiser, performer or partner, but the key element was safety, which is something we can all follow well.

Who will be there?

The EAC Convention draws delegates from across all aspects of the airshow industry from pilots to organisers, sponsors to safety experts and many more. In 2015 we had over 200 delegates from 28 nations taking an active role in the convention, whether you are a seasoned professional or just starting out, there is something for everyone.

Presentations and Discussions

Every year we aim to provide interesting, informative and entertaining presentations and discussion topics, many of which are borne from suggestions by delegates, allowing us to personalise and tackle issues that are affecting the airshow community. A key focus for 2016 will look at Safety now and the future for Organisers, Operators and Pilots alike.

Timings

The convention will officially be opened on Thursday night with a Drinks reception between 1900-2000, giving delegates the chance to meet and greet each other in relaxed surroundings. Following the reception delegates can retire to the bar to continue their discussions and network. Presentations start on Friday morning from 0900 to 1730 Hours, before concluding for the 'Airshow Dinner' from 1930. Saturday sees another 0900 start and the programme finishes at 1230, followed by a buffet lunch, for delegates remaining with us.

More detailed timings and programme updates will be issued as we move closer to the convention.



Special Side Seminars

Display Directors

In 2015 we held our first Display Directors seminar, which we will hold again 2016. The seminar is a forum for Flying Display Directors to share best practice, understanding and look at regulation. It is also an environment to share problems and issues to allow feedback to relevant authorities.

3rd Annual Fast Jet Pilots Meeting.

Now in its third years, the meeting is a chance for Military Fast Jet Display pilots to share information and experiences within an open environment. The meeting, originally open only to pilots from the F16 community expanded in 2015 to include Typhoon and Mig 29. It is a great place to gain an understanding of each other's operations, monitoring and safety mechanisms, whilst understanding individual issues along the way.

National Aviation Authority Meeting.

With the ongoing reviews into Aviation Regulation and Airshows, we will be bringing together representatives from the European Aviation Authorities to discuss the future together



Exhibition Area

Free exhibition space will be available for all delegates to promote their business, but must be booked in advance, details will follow nearer to the convention. A TV and DVD player may be hired to compliment your display. All stands will be visited by a panel of secret judges who will vote for the best displays, with awards being presented to the best display participant (performer) and best Organisation. The awards will be formally presented during the airshow dinner. It's your chance to promote your business. Further details will follow in the coming months on how to book your space.

Convention Format

The idea of the convention is to give delegates a chance to learn and develop their skills and knowledge. It is equally important that those in the industry get the chance to contribute to the convention through question and answer opportunities and side meetings. Airshows are about people and so is the convention. There are many opportunities to network and discuss business with key individuals from all aspects of the industry.

Airshow Dinner

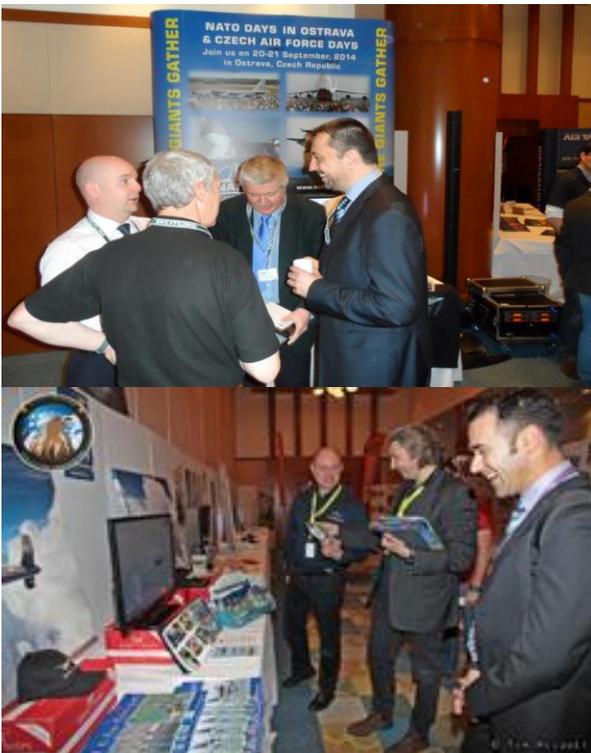
Friday Evening sees the Airshow Dinner take place, a full 4 course dinner with friends and colleagues, all delegates automatically book a place when registering. The dress code is simple, it is whatever you would wear to an airshow, whether a flying suit, shirt and tie or simply what you feel comfortable in.

Draft Programme

Following the 2015 season, airshows and aerial events are under greater scrutiny than ever before, in recent times. The 2016 programme will have a large emphasis on safety as we view it now, but also the future, with a view on looking how we as an industry can work together and learn from our experiences. It is hoped this will cover all aspects as an operator, organiser or business perspective. We have invited our National Aviation Authorities to join us in Malta, to gain a better understanding of the Organisation and learn from them as to where we are going in Europe in the future. Our aims for the 2016 convention are to cover the following topics surrounding safety:

- 2015 Safety Review, the international review of incidents and accidents
- European vs US Regulations and operating in both environments
- How the events in the UK affect you – Current UK CAA airshow review
- Insurance – The effects of increasing accidents on insurance
- Post Incident Management – Operators and Organiser implications
- Legislation and Regulation – EGAST & EASA updates
- Media handling in the wake of an incident
- Vintage Aircraft operations

In addition we will feature examples of good practice, new ideas and examples of events and operations from around Europe to make the programme interesting and entertaining for all. If you have any particular suggestions to include in the programme we would love to hear from you and will do our best to include it for 2016!



Timings

Thursday 3rd March 2016

- 1200— VIPER Seminar (Invitation Only)
Flying Display Directors Seminar
(Pre Booking Only)
- 1900—Official Convention Drinks Reception and Buffet Dinner

Friday 4th March 2016

- 0900—1730 Convention Day 1
- 1930—Official Airshow Dinner & Awards

Saturday 5th March 2016

- 0900—1230 Convention Day 2

Host Nation of Malta

Megaliths, medieval dungeons and Calypso's Cave – The Maltese Islands are positively mythic. The narrow meandering streets of their towns and villages lead to the main square, which is invariably dominated by the huge baroque church. As the countryside is dotted with medieval towers, wayside chapels and the oldest known human structures in the world, the Islands have rightly been described as an open-air museum.

The Maltese archipelago lies virtually at the centre of the Mediterranean, 93 km south of Sicily and 288 km north of Africa. The archipelago consists of three islands: Malta, Gozo and Comino with a total population of over 400,000 inhabitants occupying an area of 316 square kilometres.

Malta is the largest island and the cultural, commercial and administrative centre. Gozo is the second largest island and is more rural, characterised by fishing, tourism, crafts and agriculture. **Comino**, the smallest of the trio, has one hotel and is largely uninhabited.

With superbly sunny weather, attractive beaches, a thriving nightlife and 7,000 years of intriguing **history**, there is a great deal to see and do.



Malta is the gem of the Mediterranean. A true tourists delight, with beautiful views, weather and culture.

Selection of Malta

When the EAC first started holding the annual Convention, back in 2003, it was the intent that the convention would be held in a different nation each year and this was the case. In 2009 the convention made its home in Hasselt, Belgium, before moving to Brussels and finally Antwerp. In 2013 the board of the EAC began to look at options to move the EAC Convention around Europe once again, largely to encourage greater participation from nations that were represented or had an emerging airshow industry.

Malta is a nation with a huge interest in aviation, located in the Southern Mediterranean, the island plays host to a large international airshow each year, attracting participation from across the world. The Malta Aviation Society were keen to host the Convention and successfully completed a feasibility study that was approved by the Board in 2015. The key points for the Board were easy transport from Europe, similar or smaller costs for delegates. A venue of a similar standard was also important, capable of looking after the delegates to the same high standard as Belgium.

Malta, through the work of Board member Joe Ciliberti, fulfilled the criteria and we look forward to moving to our 2016 host. It was further decided that the EAC convention will move to a new host nation every third year, returning to Belgium for every two years in between. We are now looking for a host nation for 2019!



Travel to Malta

The main and easiest route to Malta is by air to the country's main airport at Luqa, the host airport for Malta's International Air Show. Malta is served well with several Airlines flying direct to Malta from across Europe. The breakdown below is not exhaustive and may be subject to change, it is advised that you check the relevant airline and airports travel information for the most accurate information.

Airline	Destinations
Aegean Airlines*	<i>Athens</i>
Air Berlin*	<i>Cologne/Bonn, Dusseldorf, Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart</i>
Air Malta	<i>Algiers, Amsterdam, Athens, Berlin-Tegel, Brussels, Catania, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hamburg, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, Manchester, Milan-Linate, Moscow Domodedovo, Munich, Paris CDG, Paris Orly, Rome Fiumicino, Tel Aviv Ben Gurion, Vienna, Zurich.</i> <i>*Birmingham, Bristol, Budapest, Cardiff, Corfu, Dubrovnik, Exeter, Girona, Glasgow Int, Innsbruck, Larnaca, Lyon, Marseille, Newcastle, Norwich, Prague, Tarbes/Lourdes, Venice Marco Polo.</i>
Air Mediterranee*	<i>Toulouse</i>
Air Baltic*	<i>Riga</i>
Alitalia	<i>Rome Fiumicino</i>
British Airways	<i>London Gatwick</i>
Brussels Airlines*	<i>Brussels</i>
Condor*	<i>Frankfurt, Dusseldorf</i>
EasyJet	<i>London Gatwick, Manchester, Newcastle</i> <i>*Belfast Int, Milan Malpensa, Naples</i>
Emirates	<i>Dubai Int, Larnaca</i>
Finnair*	<i>Helsinki</i>
Jet2.com*	<i>East Midlands, Glasgow, Leeds Bradford, Manchester, Newcastle</i>
Lufthansa	<i>Frankfurt, Munich</i>
Luxair*	<i>Luxembourg</i>
Medavia*	<i>Palermo</i>
Niki	<i>Vienna</i>
Norwegian Air Shuttle*	<i>Copenhagen, Madrid, Oslo Gardermoen</i>
Ryanair	<i>Bari, Bergamo, Birmingham, Bologna, Bristol, Dublin, Edinburgh, Eindhoven, Krakow, Leeds Bradford, Liverpool, London Luton, London Stansted, Madrid, Marseille, Pisa, Stockholm Skavsta, Treviso, Turin</i> <i>*Billund, Bournemouth, East Midlands, Girona, Gothenburg Landvetter, Kaunas, Prestwick, Trapani, Wroclaw</i>
Scandinavian Airlines	<i>Stockholm Arlanda</i>
Swiss International Airlines*	<i>Zurich</i>
Thomas Cook Airlines*	<i>London Gatwick, Manchester</i>
Thomson Airlines*	<i>London Gatwick, Manchester</i>
Transaero Airlines*	<i>Amsterdam</i>
Transavia*	<i>Amsterdam</i>
Transavia.com France	<i>Paris Orly, Nantes</i>
TUIfly*	<i>Hamburg, Hannover</i>
TunisAir Express	<i>Tunis</i>
Turkish Airlines	<i>Istanbul Ataturk</i>
Veuling	<i>Barcelona</i> <i>*Madrid, Rome Fiumicino</i>
WizzAir	<i>Bucharest, Budapest, Gdansk, Sofia, Warsaw Chopin</i>



db Seabank
RESORT + SPA

Mellieha

Mellieha is a beautiful part of the island of Malta, with stunning views, Beautiful Beaches, classic and contemporary architecture and much more. The hotel is located directly opposite the island's largest sandy beach, with excellent transport links around the island with bus and taxi travel available directly outside. The main town of Mellieha is around 5 minutes away by car or bus. Located in Mellieha Bay, you will find a range of tourism excursions available, from island tours by boat, water sports, nature reserves and military history.

Mellieha is just 4 km's away from the island of Gozo connected to the main island by a ferry connection.

Convention Venue

The venue hotel for the 2016 convention is the db Seabank Resort and Spa, located on the North East of the Island in Mellieha. The resort has recently undergone a massive modernization and upgrade programme, leading to a deserved 4 ½ star rating on Trip Advisor,

The db Seabank Resort+Spa offers a genuinely superior service that's aimed at giving you back good value for your money. We're down to earth and customer friendly, and constantly focused on providing high quality choices.

The lively and friendly experience we can offer at db Seabank is unrivalled anywhere on the island. Strategically located 30 meters away from Malta's largest beaches, and surrounded by an amazing array of options, staying at the db Seabank will guarantee you peace of mind and a refreshing experience.

From the gastronomic delights to the entertainment, restaurants, shopping, wellness facilities outdoor activities and body mind alternative courses you will always discover something new to do at the db Seabank Resort+Spa.

Address:

Db Seabank Resort & Spa, Marfa Road, Mellieha Bay, MLH 9064, MALTA

Tel: (+356) 2289 1000 www.dbhotelsresorts.com/dbseabank/



Getting to the Hotel & Island Transport

Convention Airport Shuttle Service

There are several ways to get to the hotel, however we have included a shuttle service transfer in the price of the convention. All we need are your flight numbers and times for arrival and departure. Further details will follow in the coming months, but we aim to provide a schedule shuttle service for all delegates arriving at the airport.

Hire Cars

If you would like to book a hire car, the hotel recommends the Drifter Company as a partner, details of bookings can be found by visiting their website in the column opposite. There is a large car park at the hotel. Also if you decide to hire a car during the convention, you can visit the conveniently located Drifter Hire desk in the hotel reception. Please take a look at their website, to ensure you have the correct documentation and meet the requirements to hire a vehicle before travelling.

Buses

Directly opposite the main entrance to the hotel, you will find a bus stop, which services most routes around the island. Full and up to date travel and transport information can be found in hotel reception on arrival or in advance by visiting www.publictransport.com.mt



By Car

Follow the signs to Mellieha Village, situated in the north of Malta. Guests are recommended to take the road which passes through Qormi, Zebbug, Mosta and St. Paul's Bay, before arriving at Mellieha. The db Seabank Resort + Spa All Inclusive is situated beyond Mellieha town centre, just in front of Ghadira Bay.

Drifter Car Hire offers various cars for hiring. For more information please [click here](#) or email cabs@driftercarhire.com

By Taxi

A 24 hour taxi service is available at the airport. Transfer time is approximately 30-45 minutes to the hotel.

Drifter Cab Service offers a 24hour service, further details can be found by e-mailing them on the address above or by visiting their website: <http://www.driftercarhire.com/>



Healthcare

If suddenly taken ill or involved in an accident during a visit to Malta, free or reduced-cost necessary treatment is available for European travellers - in most cases on production of a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Comprehensive insurance is advised for all other nationals.

The principal hospital is Mater Dei at B'Kara, in Malta. Ambulance travel is free in an emergency (telephone 112), as long as you can prove that you are entitled to treatment.

Malta has a reciprocal health agreement with Australia; residents from Australia visiting are entitled to free medical hospital care during their first six months in Malta.

The Board of the EAC strongly recommend that delegates ensure that they have adequate travel and health insurance for their visit and to ensure that European Nationals are in possession of a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Food and drink:

Mains water is normally chlorinated and, whilst safe, may cause mild abdominal upsets. Bottled water is available and is advised for the first few weeks of the stay. Milk is pasteurised and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally considered safe to eat.



Documentation and Travel Restrictions to Malta

Malta is part of the European Union and as such is part of the Schengen agreed travel area and therefore a Visa is not required to enter Malta. Non Schengen countries where, the same or similar rights of entry apply are listed below with the entry requirements needed.

Country	Passport Required	Return Travel Ticket Required	VISA Required
Australia	Y	Y	N
Great Britain	Y	N	N
Canada	Y	Y	N
Other European Nation	1	N	N
United States of America	Y	Y	N

A passport valid for three months beyond the length of stay and issued within the past 10 years is required by all nationals listed in the chart above except (1) EU nationals holding a passport or national ID card which is valid for the duration of stay.

If travelling from one border-free Schengen country to another however, EU nationals are not required to show a passport or national ID card. It is still recommended that you travel with your passport or ID card to prove your identity if necessary though. Note that Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the UK are not part of the Schengen area, so a passport or ID card is required if travelling to/from these countries.

EU nationals are not required to possess a return ticket or show sufficient funds.

Visas

Visas for Malta are not required by all nationals referred to in the chart above. Australian, Canadian and US nationals may stay without a visa for up to 90 days. EU nationals may stay for an unlimited period, but must register with the local authorities after three months.

Nationals not referred to in the chart are advised to contact their nearest embassy (www.foreign.gov.mt) to check visa requirements for Malta.





Convention Fees

The EAC is a non-profit Organisation and we operate as volunteers to the roles. We try to ensure that the best possible package is available for delegates and we are pleased to announce that

Convention Rates

We are delighted to be able to offer you a cheaper convention in 2016. The venue we have chosen has reduced its rates for us and has allowed us to offer you an all-inclusive package. The convention rate for 2016 includes 2 nights' accommodation in the hotel as well as all of your meals, drinks and full use of the hotels main facilities. In addition the convention rate also allows for your hotel transfer from the Airport to the hotel, so there is no need to book a hire car, taxi or catch the bus, we just need your flight number and times for arrival and departure!

To ease your administration burden, we are pleased to offer you the option of booking additional night's stay at the hotel if you wish to make a short break of the convention directly through the EAC. Even better news is that the hotel will honor the discounted all-inclusive rates as below for early booking:

Package	Early Rate	Full Price
Convention Full Delegate Package – 1 Person (Single Room) *For a second or third person from the same organization we are pleased to offer a further discounted rate.	450.00 425.00*	490.00 490.00
Convention Full Delegate + Partner – 2 persons sharing Double Room *For a second person from the same organization we are pleased to offer a further discounted rate.	770.00 *740.00	810.00 810.00
Convention Full Delegate & Partner (Social Events only)- 2 persons sharing Double Room	590.00	630.00
Additional Room Nights (Single) All Inclusive	65.00	95.00
Additional Room Nights (Double) All Inclusive	90.00	130.00

Further Options for single day attendance are available on the EAC Website.

To Book the 2016 Convention, please visit www.european-airshow.com



Contact Us

If you have any questions or queries please contact the EAC Executive or Chairman, who will be happy to help:

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Chairman:
Gilbert Buekenberghs
Gilbert@european-airshow.com

Website:
www.european-airshow.com

