UKRAINIAN AVIATION SECURITY: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES

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According to the Department of Homeland Security, 730 million people travel on passenger jets every year, while more than 700 million pieces of their baggage are screened for explosives and other dangerous items.

Aviation security exists to prevent malicious acts against aircraft and their passengers and crew. Throughout the history of aviation, the significance of airport security has progressively increased, but civil aviation has always been a particular area of terrorist interest. Airports are very busy public places and it is not a surprise to see them as one of the main targets for terrorism.

The Ukrainian aviation industry is dynamic and constantly developing, which generates economic growth, creates jobs and facilitates tourism and international trade. The industries directly supported by aviation are growing accordingly.

Although the beginning of 2020 was marked by the worldwide spread of the COVID-19, which also had a strong impact on the aviation industry in Ukraine, its consequences for civil aviation will need to be assessed over time.

The popularity of domestic and international flight in Ukraine has significantly increased in the past year. According to a report by the Head of the State Aviation Administration of Ukraine, air transport increased by 18,4% in 2019 compared to 2018. More than 335 thousand flights were serviced through Ukrainian airspace.

In the meantime, the administration has outlined the priorities for the development of the aviation market in 2020:

- Improve aviation safety and security.
- Increase the quality of air transportation organisation processes.
- Liberalisation of air traffic.
- Minimisation of the negative effects of civil aviation on the environment.
- Harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with European Union legislation and ICAO standards.
- Creating an integrated information system for the State Aviation Administration.

There is a number of people who are going through the Ukrainian airports every day. Even with the affection of COVID-19 statistics says that in 2020 passenger traffic in Ukrainian airports was around 8,664 million. This means almost 2500 people and their belongings were inspected every day in Ukrainian airports.

Ukraine as ICAO member is in charge of security in all airports and on boards of aircraft departing from and arriving to Ukraine. Main goals for countries, which are members of ICAO in civil aviation security sector are:

- to enhance risk awareness and response,

- to develop security culture and human capability,
- to improve technological resources and foster innovation,
- to improve oversight and quality assurance
- to increase cooperation and support.

It is clear that it is very difficult to maintain a high level of aviation security in Ukraine, and we believe that this is the most important challenge for our country. Security officers must always maintain the level of their qualification and improve it in a proper way, it's quite a complicated task. It is also worth noting that there is a lack of the latest equipment, especially in small airports. It is quite obvious that the number of passengers there is lower than in bigger Ukrainian airports like Kyiv Boryspil or Kyiv Zhuliany, but it is unacceptable to underestimate security measures in such airports. And another problem is a slow adaptation of international aviation security standards to national legislation. In Ukraine all these procedures are taking too much time, we must adapt them faster and provide state-of-the-art airport security.

It should be noted that aviation security in Ukraine has a lot of prospects. One of the main perspectives are human resource training. Ukraine is the only country in the world that has two certified by ICAO training centers, which are providing aviation security training. Instructors from these centers are teaching not only personnel from Ukrainian airports, but also representatives from other countries such as Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and others. Another great perspective is that biggest airport in Ukraine − Kyiv Boryspil Airport corresponds to all latest international standards, which means that such airways as Qatar Airways, Lufthansa, British Airways and others are allowed to fly to and from Ukraine. Also, Kyiv Boryspil airport security cooperates with TSA (Transportation Security Administration), which allows airlines to fly directly from Ukraine to USA.

We came to the conclusion that aviation security in Ukraine has some perspectives, but to reach them we need to overcome a lot of challenges. If our country develops this sector appropriately, then we can have one of the best airport securities in the world.

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