

Aviation security issues related to the use of VTOLs

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Short bio *(courtesy translation)*

Since September 2022, Dominique GRASS is Head of the Risk Assessment Unit, French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC), Directorate of Transport. He was previously Aviation & Aeronautics Counselor, French Embassy in China, Economic Department (2018), Expert Negotiator for Bilateral Air Services Agreements, French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC), Directorate of Transport (2014), Head of the Budget Division, French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC), General Affairs (2010), Deputy Director of Human Resources, La Documentation Française (2007), Head of the Information Center, French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons - OFPRA (2006), International Volunteer at the French Embassy in Ethiopia, Cultural Department (2005).

He holds a Master of Law & Public Affairs Management (University of Western Brittany, France, 2010), a Master of Information Science (University of Franche-Comté, France, 2010) and Master of Philosophy and Social Sciences (University of Franche-Comté, France, 1999).

Abstract

Since 2014, the DGCA has developed a risk analysis structure for the air transport aiming to analyse and assess the terrorist risk to aircrafts and airport infrastructures, both nationally and internationally. It also aims to enable the DGCA to anticipate new threats or modus operandi targeting aircrafts on the ground or in flight, as well as airports public areas.

The arrival of new means of transport, such as VTOL, requires anticipating the risks related to their attractiveness and innovative nature. This leads the DGCA to assess the credibility of the threat and to identify the security measures that need to be put in place. However, the urban environment of VTOL, the evolving nature of the technology and the absence of precedents constitute challenges to carry out this analysis.

Ultimately, the main issue is to ensure a sufficient and reasonable level of security for future users of this mode of transport without hindering the passenger experience and therefore VTOL commercial development.