BITS in Action: Large-Scale Emergency Exercise at Brussels Airport

On Saturday, 18 November, 2023 Brussels Airport hosted a large-scale emergency exercise, led by the Governor of the Province of Flemish Brabant. This biannual drill is part of the provincial emergency and intervention plan and meets the safety requirements of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

Approximately 450 participants were involved, including fire services, medical teams, federal police, military personnel, and local and federal authorities. The scenario simulated a crash between a military helicopter and a taxiing aircraft, resulting in numerous injured and deceased victims.

During the exercise, the Belgium Incident Tracking System (BITS) was fully activated—used to register and track both injured individuals and uninjured persons needing care. BITS proved once again to be a vital tool in managing complex incidents and supporting coordinated response.

We thank Brussels Airport for the opportunity to observe this important exercise and to see BITS contribute to crisis preparedness in such a realistic setting.