



22 November 2019

Dear Minister,

We are writing in relation to the upcoming European Union Transport Council on 2 December, where the future reform of the Single European Sky will be discussed.

The European Air Traffic Management system has in the last two years struggled to cope with the demand in the network, with very high delays and mitigation measures requiring flights to take longer routes and therefore generate more CO2 emissions.

We continue to dream of an alternative reality. That in the (hopefully) not so distant future, thanks to a brand-new infrastructure:

- Airspace will be just as safe – or even safer than it is today.
- Regulation will be simplified and fit for purpose.
- Delays will be virtually non-existent.
- A network centric approach by all actors, including airspace users, air navigation service providers and airports, will result in aircraft using the most efficient trajectories, thus significantly reducing aviation's environmental footprint.

But as of today, this dream still seems a long way off. While Europe can be proud of the success of its aviation market, the original goals of the Single European Sky (SES) have not yet been achieved. Aggregation of national Performance Plans for the next five years shows that the targets will still not be reached for neither efficiency nor environment, despite a substantial increase in charges to airlines.

This situation is unacceptable. Vital resources are needed to be dedicated to investments focused on the long-term sustainability of aviation. Many of the technological and operational pieces are ready for deployment. These pieces, along with an update of the regulatory framework, will turn our dream into a reality. Only then can we achieve the up to 10% reduction in CO2 emissions, and other High-Level Goals the SES will deliver.

Given the expert work produced by the European Commission and Eurocontrol this year – and further supported by the signing of our [Joint ATM Stakeholder Declaration](#), we believe it is time for Europe's governments to take the appropriate action to update the SES legal framework. This will ensure that your citizens benefit from a seamless sky in a single aviation market in the future. Your approval will

also enable EU governments to play a decisive role in reducing CO2 emissions from aviation whilst safeguarding future growth through innovation and improved global competitiveness.

A positive decision at the EU TTE Council meeting on 2-3 December 2019 regarding SES would entail:

- Updating the current outdated SES II regulation<sup>1</sup> in the most efficient way possible;
- Cooperating closely with industry, using existing plans and visionary documents as the basis for success;
- Targeting a future-proof regulatory environment following the vision outlined in the beginning of this letter.

We, the undersigned, believe this is the opportune moment to move forward decisively and end the deadlock on the Single European Sky regulatory framework. Society is clearly demanding that aviation be more responsible in relation to the environment – airports and airspace users cannot be the only ones having to bear the weight of this responsibility.

It is paramount that the Industry can rely on an efficient air traffic management system in a reformed Single European Sky, which would provide substantial improvements on the road to a sustainable aviation future.

We therefore urge you and the Transport Council to provide the required leadership and direction to unlock the urgently needed reforms.

Yours,



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<sup>1</sup> REGULATION (EC) No 1070/2009 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 21 October 2009 amending Regulations (EC) No 549/2004, (EC) No 550/2004, (EC) No 551/2004 and (EC) No 552/2004 in order to improve the performance and sustainability of the European aviation system.