



Airlines for America^{*}

We Connect the World

September 3, 2020

[REDACTED]
DG Mobility and Transport
European Commission
Rue Demot 28, 1040 Brussels

Dear [REDACTED]

Airlines for America (A4A) is writing to urgently request that you support the industry's position and urge you to quickly propose a full winter slot waiver, pursuant to the delegated act authority set out in Article 10a and 12a of the Slot Regulation. A4A is the principal trade and service organization of the U.S. scheduled airline industry¹. Many of our members have extensive operations in the EU – North America market and have a strong vested interest in the outcome of the ongoing slot waiver discussions in Brussels.

A4A believes that a full winter waiver is critical to the recovery of an industry decimated by COVID-19 and associated government-imposed travel restrictions. First, international passenger volumes remain down approximately 90 percent and experts forecast that there will be no significant improvement during the upcoming winter season. In fact, all the economic indicators are that demand will flatline during the winter season as governments and the industry work to find safe ways to ease travel restrictions and restore consumer confidence.

Second, a full winter waiver will benefit passengers, airlines and airports. The waiver would reduce the need for schedule changes close to the date of operation, thereby avoiding unnecessary disruption to passenger travel plans. It will enable airlines to refrain from operating services that make no commercial or environmental sense to preserve grandfather rights to slots that they will need to return to profitability. As a result, the slots returned to the pool as a result of the waiver will increase airport operations and revenues.

We understand that the Commission plans to adopt a waiver in two parts – the first until end of January through adoption of a delegated act and the second for the remainder of the season through amendments to the Slot Regulation, which will incorporate slot waiver conditions. Given the urgency, we believe that the Commission should propose a full winter waiver through a delegated act. In return, the industry will voluntarily commit to implement during the winter season the conditions upon which the airlines, airports, and coordinators recently agreed, including the three-week slot return deadline. The industry will also support the Commission's

¹ A4A members are Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Atlas Air, Delta Air Lines, FedEx, Hawaiian Airlines, JetBlue Airways, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines and UPS. Air Canada is an associate member.

work to include in the Regulation the agreed conditions for entry, effective in summer season 2021.

We thank you for your kind attention. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,

