Thank you for the letter of 13 July 2020 signed by 29 major airlines around the world requesting a waiver from the standard slot usage rules for the winter 2020/2021 season.

The Commission is currently assessing the situation and has been in regular contact with the associations of the main stakeholder groups (airlines, airports, and slot-coordinators). The feedback provided by them, as well as traffic data from EUROCONTROL, will be taken into account in the summary report on the continuous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on air traffic and the slot waiver, which the Commission is required to present to the European Parliament and Council by 15 September 2020. The report will indicate the next steps.

Please also be informed that the Commission is planning an initiative to further amend the Slot Regulation to possibly make future waivers subject to certain conditions. The Roadmap for the initiative and a public consultation can be found here. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback to the Roadmap and/or answer to the public consultation.

Yours faithfully,