To: KOPCZYNSKA Magda (MOVE);

Subject: Flash report: MK meeting Airlines for America (A4A), 11 October 2023

Today, DG Magda Kopczyńska met with Airlines for America (A4A), for an introductory meeting at their request. Further A4A participants: . Further Commission participants: (all Directorate E),

- introduced A4A (leading US airline and underlined A4A’s interest to continue working as a stakeholder with the European Commission.
- **Aviation market:** informed about extraordinarily strong and growing demand in the transatlantic market which remains the most important international market. Aviation jobs largely continue to be attractive, except for Air Traffic Controllers where the situation is more difficult.
- **Noise:** raised concerns about the application of certain noise mitigation measures at EU airports. Nevertheless, A4A stressed its commitment to the balanced approach, which is also enshrined in EU US ATA.
- **Decarbonising aviation/Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF):** Emphasising that A4A is a fully committed partner in the decarbonisation of the sector, underlined the comparatively small footprint of the aviation sector in terms of carbon emissions. On SAF production, A4A sees many challenges on the way to meet the objectives. In the US, the projected volume of the SAF is too small and SAF competes with biodiesel (better incentive structure so difficult to justify the necessary investments). The financial incentives in IRA are not sufficient to attract investors, and the investing horizon is too short (IRA expires in 2027). is therefore not sure that US 2030 target of producing 3bn gallons SAF (about 10% of jet fuel demands) will be met. A4A members are heavily investing into SAF.
- **Flags of convenience:** Discussed the recurring legislative attempts to introduce so-called “flags of convenience” language targeting EU air carriers into US law.
- **Other issues briefly touched upon:** ATC modernisation, crew visa reciprocity.

The brief tour d’horizon of aviation issues concluded with at the International Aviation Club in the margins of her next visit to Washington DC.