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Subject:

Meeting Report - Airlines for America - CAB LEVEL - 09/12/19

Participants:

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CAB-VALEAN met with Airlines for America (A4A) upon their request this morning 09/12/19, for an introductory meeting. A4A underlined the excellent working relationship with the European Commission in general and their wish for this relationship to further prosper. A4A presented their views on the Sustainable Aviation Fuels, the Green Deal, Brexit, Slots and the 737 MAX. Their main points per topic were:

Sustainable Aviation Fuels:

- Are the most promising way to decarbonise aviation. But still “10 times more costly”. Need to establish a proper market place. Hoping EU will take action.
- A4A will adopt a common position on what policy framework is needed in US and EU. Could be a blending mandate. Expected delivery: before March, earliest in 6 weeks.
- Currently, US State-level tax credits for the use of SAF (e.g. in California). Does not lead to market distortion. Federal approach to tax credits for SAF is not the most likely option in near future.
- Fedex target to run on 30% SAF by 2030. Feedstock is woody biomass. First deliveries in 2020.
- United Airlines are world’s airline using the most SAF. United uses 50% of all SAF currently used. “Only represents 0.01% of total jet fuel consumption”.

Other ENV topics:

- The Greta movement is picking-up in US. “Where is our Green Deal?” people ask.
- A4A strongly committed to CORSIA and see all attempts by EU MS to impose additional pricing schemes including at national level as undermining CORSIA (e.g. departure tax on international traffic).
- SES reform is a “no-brainer”. “SES 2++ could save 15-20% emissions! Need to stop flying in circles over Heathrow for 30min”. Then complained about FR strikes.

Brexit:

- A4A very grateful for EU’s work to keep traffic alive in spite of all uncertainty.

- When EU negotiates new deal with UK, need to keep markets as open as possible – ensure no impact on anti-trust immunity.
- FedEx raised logistics concerns at future “new border”.

Airport Slots:

- A4A argued that EU Slots regulation, if reviewed should be as close as possible to IATA WSG.
- Support secondary trading, not slots auctions.

737MAX:

- Absence of 737MAX is financially pressuring airlines.
- A4A is anxious to see 737MAX back in the skies. Awaiting FAA clearance. Likely FAA will announce soon a roadmap towards re-introduction. Hoping that various certification authorities around the world will make joint notification of re-certification at the same time.
- A4A worried that US politicians start asking for certification of aircraft to be performed solely by public authorities.