

Ms. Adina Vălean
European Commissioner for Transport
Rue de la Loi 200
Brussels

Brussels, 27 April 2020

Dear Commissioner Vălean,

At the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA), which represents over 9,000 small and large corporations flying their employees across Europe and the world, we are witnessing the disruptive force of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis on our people and on the travel sector.

Keeping air transport alive and functional will avert the knock-on consequences on the hospitality sector and on connectivity at all levels, from cross-border to urban mobility. Travel will allow individuals to reconnect after the crisis, place skills where they are most needed, will boost employment and help resurrect the economies in the EU and across the world.

The European Institutions took important steps allowing Member States to provide much needed liquidity to the most affected sectors. In this regard, we share your views that attaching environmental conditionality to national support schemes for airlines is extremely ill-timed. GBTA supports the recovery of the aviation sector, since a functioning and healthy travel industry depends on how quickly and efficiently air connectivity is restored.

As we turn our attention to exit strategies, the travel sector concerned that EU Member States will take an uncoordinated approach on reopening borders, allowing travel, and resuming events. While protecting citizens' health must be the priority, and Member States are each facing a different stage of the pandemic, uncoordinated measures will add further strain on citizens and travel operators alike. Business critically depends on seamless cross-border travel, and uncertainties need to be prevented to the extent possible, as further operational difficulties will slow down the recovery.

We express our appreciation for what the European Commission is doing to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the travel sector. Ahead of your exchange of views with the European Parliament tomorrow, we call upon you and the entire Commission to push for more ambitious and coordinated measures. We too are looking forward to seeing detailed guidance from the Commission on how to progressively restore transport services, connectivity, and free movement of citizens.

Yours sincerely,



Global Business Travel Association