

By e-mail only

European Commission Director-General Henrik Hololei, Director-General Mauro Petriccione

Brussels, 02 December 2019

Re.: European Sustainable Aviation Roadmap

Dear Directors-General,

The new European Commission College begins its activities at a time of enormous challenges, but also tremendous opportunities for both the European Union and European aviation. In her speech to the European Parliament on 16 July, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen expressed her desire to see Europe become the first climate-neutral continent in the world by 2050, noting that aviation needs to contribute to Europe's efforts.

The European aviation industry at large stands behind the EU ambition to move towards a zero or low-carbon economy. The sector has made strong commitments and is investing heavily to ensure that air transport supports Europe's common environmental goals. Our average fuel consumption fell by 24% per passenger kilometre between 1990 and 2017 as a result of more efficient aircraft and better operational management¹.

However, as a fast-growing sector, the European aviation industry does acknowledge that the latest scientific findings, as revealed by the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°, do require us to step up our action and accelerate decarbonisation. Further to our sector's already challenging long-term goals, we are exploring ways to move faster on the decarbonisation of aviation for which it is essential for EU industry and the EU institutions to work in partnership. Some actors in the industry, including Europe's airports and some airlines, have already made commitments to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

The right policies, incentives and investments at European and national level can support our industry's efforts to achieve our sustainability goals. The European aviation sector takes these goals very seriously and we are therefore engaged in the development of a cross-sector climate initiative – the European Sustainable Aviation Roadmap – for finalization H1 2020. This independently researched study will identify the most promising measures to reduce our industry's carbon footprint in terms of technology, operations, sustainable fuels and price incentives by 2030 and 2050.

With this initiative, we would like to work together with the services of the European Commission to jointly define the best investment and regulatory framework required to support aviation in addressing the economic, social and regional challenges of climate change.

We are at your disposal should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

¹ A typical new generation Single Aisle emits around 50 grams of CO₂ per seat, equivalent to 2 fuel burn per passenger for 100km – the average European car consumption is about 5.2 and 6.5 litres/100 km, according to IEA.



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