



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Ref. Ares(2020)5014773 - 24/09/2020

Brussels
MOVE/HH

Airlines for America
Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] *Dean* [REDACTED]

Thank you for the letter of 3 September 2020 requesting an extension of the slot waiver for the full winter 2020/2021 scheduling season

On 14 September 2020, the Commission adopted a report on the situation of air traffic in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the slot waiver. Based on Eurocontrol data the report shows that air traffic levels remain low, and that they are not likely to recover in the near future. The most recent Eurocontrol forecast predicts that by February 2021, traffic levels will be still 50% lower compared to the same period in the previous year. Therefore, the Commission considers it necessary to extend the slot waiver to the winter 2020/2021 scheduling season.

The report also describes certain shortcomings of the waiver such as the late hand-back of unused slots to the pool by certain airlines and certain airlines requesting new slots while not being able to operate their whole slot portfolio. To some extent the shortcomings can be addressed by the best practices agreed between airline, airport and slot-coordinator associations on 7 August 2020, provided all parties are committed to abide by them, which I strongly encourage.

The Commission has also planned to adopt a proposal to amend the Slot Regulation. This amendment would allow the Commission to grant further waivers, if necessary, but subject to certain conditions that would ensure that airport capacity is used effectively, that competition is not distorted, and that helps recovery for the benefit of consumers. There is a [public consultation](#) ongoing on the initiative until 28 September 2020. All stakeholders are encouraged to respond.

Yours faithfully,

Yours Sincerely,

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111
Office [REDACTED] - Tel. direct line [REDACTED]