



*Deputy Permanent Representative of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands
to the European Union*

Brussels, 6 March 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached a letter from [REDACTED] Civil Aviation
and Maritime Affairs of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands, dated 6 March 2020, regarding a request for extension waiver.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mobility and Transport (MOVE)
European Commission
Rue Demot 28/ Demotstraat 28
1040 Bruxelles / Brussel



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

> Return address [redacted] The Hague

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
[redacted]
building DM 28
1049 Bruxelles / Brussel Belgium

Directorate-General for
Aviation and Maritime
Affairs
Civil Aviation Directorate
[redacted]

Our reference
IENW/BSK-2020/46388

Date 6 March 2020
Subject request for extension waiver

Dear [redacted]

As you are aware of, the Corona virus "Covid-19" has had a major impact on the international and European aviation industry and the situation is still deteriorating on a daily basis.

This has also severely affected the operations of all airlines to and from the Netherlands on a great number of intercontinental and European routes such as those of KLM, which had to suspend all its flights to mainland China since early February for that reason.

I would firstly like to thank you for your prompt action in this regard by allowing EU slot coordinators to consider the requests from airlines for the application of "force majeure" for slots allocated for direct operations to and from mainland China as unforeseeable and unavoidable circumstances on the basis of Article 10.4a of the EU slotregulation for the IATA winter season 2019/2020. In that context, you have also clarified that any developments that could indicate a need for a broader dispensation at a global level, similar to SARS in 2003, will also be considered by the Commission when and if appropriate.

As has become apparent in the last few weeks, the effects of the Corona virus on our European and national aviation industry will most likely be felt for a far longer period to come than the current IATA winter season.

By means of this letter, I would therefore like to make a strong plea to you on behalf of our aviation sector to extend your current application of the 'force majeure' rule for slots allocated for direct operations to and from mainland China for the upcoming IATA summer season of 2020 and to broaden its scope to all other severely affected countries on which the Corona-virus had a great impact in the meanwhile. I trust that its scope can also be broadened further on short notice to any other European or intercontinental destination if deemed necessary by the effects of the Corona virus in the country or region at hand.

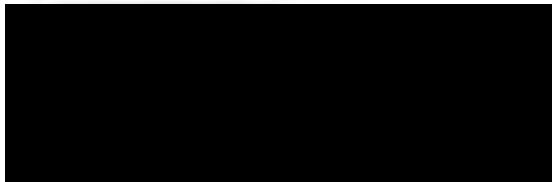
In view of the complex task faced by our airlines of having to make a great number of adjustments to their networks for the upcoming IATA summer season, I

would be grateful if such a decision could be made on short notice by the Commission.

I am always willing to discuss the appropriate steps to be taken with you in more detail on the basis of the situation at hand and I will keep in touch with you on all relevant developments from our side.

Yours sincerely,

 Civil Aviation and Maritime Affairs,



**Directorate-General for
Aviation and Maritime
Affairs**
Civil Aviation Directorate

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