

[REDACTED]

Delta Air Lines, Inc.
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Atlanta, GA 30354
T: [REDACTED]
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December 10, 2020

The Honorable [REDACTED]

Directorate General of Mobility and Transport
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your leadership and support of the aviation industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. The slot relief granted by the Commission for the prior two IATA seasons has been critical to the industry and will help ensure its eventual recovery. I am writing to request that the EU urgently adopt the Worldwide Airport Slot Board's (WASB) proposal for slot usage relief for the summer 2021 season.

Delta Air Lines strongly supports the WASB's consensus recommendations for worldwide slot relief measures and believes that implementation of these recommendations will allow the industry to rebuild in a sustainable manner. The WASB - comprised of a diverse group of airlines, airports, and slot coordinators worldwide - worked for months to develop a globally applicable set of recommendations on the reinstatement of slot usage rules for the IATA summer 2021 season. As a result, the recommendations represent a careful balance of these varied interests worldwide to ensure that slot processes are globally consistent.

The WASB recommendations include:

- A 50-50 operating threshold to retain slots at Level 3 airports;
- Historic rights for slots in summer 2022 for slots returned by early February; and
- Clear definitions for acceptable non-use of slots, including full exemption for COVID related cancellations due to government restrictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to devastate airline travel demand. Only minimal improvement is expected for international recovery until border and quarantine restrictions lift with a global vaccine distribution. Widespread vaccine availability will be the catalyst for demand improvement, but this will take a substantial time, prolonging the recovery period.

In view of the planning timetable for summer 2021, it is critical that the EU and other regulators around the world implement these recommendations as soon as possible but no later than mid-January. The summer 2021 schedule planning process is well underway with important slot usage deadlines in late January and early February. Action is needed now from governments worldwide to enable all airlines and airports to benefit from this modest relief package.

In closing, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a highly unusual and unpredictable event which will impact our operations for summer 2021 season. We are hopeful that due to the introduction of vaccines this will be our last request for relief. As always, we appreciate your support of the U.S. aviation industry and stand ready to work with you to implement the consensus recommendations developed by the WASB.

Sincerely,

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