

[REDACTED], DG MOVE, European Commission

[REDACTED], DG COMP, European Commission

11 August 2020

Subject: Urgent discussion on market distortion effects of slot waiver prolongation

To whom it may concern: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED], [REDACTED],

Please kindly allow us to share with you once again our deep concerns around slot waiver prolongation in W20/21 that has been requested by international organizations and airline groups as well lately.

Airlines across Europe with weak business models, many of whom have benefitted from irrationally huge injections of public money to support them, are now demanding that they be given further relief into the winter flying season from the usual 80-20 use-it-or-lose-it rule for airport slots at some of Europe's busiest airports.

At the same time, they are making tens of thousands of direct employees redundant and their failure to operate means many hundreds of thousands more jobs at airports and in supply chains will be lost. Their requested alleviation of the slot rules will therefore result in a far slower economic recovery while Wizz Air has the capacity and financial means to grow and backfill capacity, protecting thousands of the jobs which would be lost if an alleviation of the slot rules were approved.

One of the key points used in support of a further alleviation is a 'green agenda'. However, it is ironic that the same airlines now supporting a green agenda are the same airlines who, if they even anything close to deliver their planned improvements, would still in a decade's time be emitting significantly greater amounts per passenger than Wizz Air does today. Their environmental justification is nothing more than a cheap PR trick. There is a far simpler way to ensure that so-called "ghost flights" are not operated: ban them.

Due to the importance and urgency of the topic please offer a slot for video call in order to discuss the above further.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Wizz Air

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