

Mr. Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1040 Brussels

By email only

Brussels, 7 December 2020

Subject: follow-up to meeting with EU Aviation Industry CEOs

Dear Executive Vice President,

On behalf of the aviation industry associations representing the European airlines (A4E, ERA), airports (ACI EUROPE), air navigation service providers (CANSO) and manufacturers (ASD) and their leadership, I would like to sincerely thank you for your valuable time you allocated on 27 November to exchange ideas on the status of the sector and its ambition to reduce CO2 emissions with a view of 2030 and 2050. We very much appreciate your openness, your questions and the relevant points you made during the discussion.

I would like to take this opportunity to sum up a number of concrete take-aways and action items from our meeting:

- 'Destination 2050 – A Route to Net Zero European Aviation': with this initiative, we reiterate our commitment to (1) significantly reduce CO2 emissions by 2030, to allow a strong contribution to the EU's Climate Action objectives and the Paris Agreement, and (2) achieve net zero CO2 emissions by 2050 from all flights within and departing from EU airports.
- EU Sustainable & Smart & Mobility Strategy: we stand ready to continue the dialogue with you and your services to contribute to the shaping of the policy and legislation following this strategy and in the framework of the EU Climate Pact.
- Ensure proper funding for civil aviation research: The EU can play an important role in enabling the EU aviation sector to meet the objectives of the EU Green Deal. Civil aviation research funding should be prioritized within Horizon Europe and Next Generation EU by increasing its public funding and public co-funding rates (for both Clean Aviation and SESAR).

The EU should also ensure that rules of participation to research public private partnerships remain attractive for private investors.

- Sustainability investments at ground level: we are encouraged to hear that you see a lot of potential for short term investment in ground-based operations at airports (batteries, electric ground vehicles, etc.) and that you would be ready to raise this with the Member States for their national investment plans as part of the recovery efforts.
- Global nature of sustainability challenges: we recognize the need to marry Europe's environmental leadership ambition with the European industry's global competitiveness; we recognize the opportunity to join forces with the EC to globally mitigate distortion of competition in the context of COP26 (Glasgow, November 2021).
- EU support for aircraft fleet renewal: given the internal EC discussions on the need for support for fleet renewal, we will present you some models demonstrating its potential.
- Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs): we are encouraged by the fact that you recognize the need to upscale production capacity of SAFs, and the EC's role to support this.
- Efficient ATM operations: we note your interest to help advance the EC's Single European Sky proposal (SES2+) and the potential of digital in reducing CO2 emissions; We also stressed the importance to provide 100% public funding for SESAR deployment during the current crisis years in order to enable the implementation of a Digital European Sky as a key enabler for a more sustainable ATM system.
- Aviation Round Table Report on the Recovery of European Aviation: we note your comment as the aviation Round Table Report being a very positive step but that the ultimate value will be in its effective implementation. We indeed share this view and would like to point to the value of the proposed Pact for Sustainable Aviation as the vehicle to monitor and support such implementation – especially as regards the necessary convergence and complementarity between what the industry can and should do and how the policy/regulatory framework should act as enabler and supporter in achieving agreed sustainability goals.
- Non-CO2 emissions: we agree to report back on our findings and proposed next steps following the recent EASA study on non-CO2 emissions.

As raised during the meeting, looking forward regarding the imminent publication of the abovementioned *Destination 2050* study, we would appreciate if you could consider to provide your support via formal comments or hand-over at the virtual launch event of the project which is scheduled for 25 February 2021 (10h00).

Finally, we gladly accept your offer to meet again with our leadership in the first quarter of 2021 to follow up on the above and other points that you may wish to raise.

On behalf of the EU aviation associations which were involved in the discussion, I will therefore contact your office to discuss next concrete steps.

Yours sincerely,

