



20 April 2020

## EU level response

### European Parliament

- On 15 April, the European Parliament's political factions EPP (center-right), Renew Europe (center), S&D (center-left) and the Greens submitted a joint [Motion for a Resolution](#) calling for a **recovery package** to support the European economies after the crisis. The Motion was voted through in the Parliament's plenary session on 17 April. A similar call for a recovery fund was also part of the Eurogroup's proposal of a [comprehensive strategy](#) on the COVID-19 economic recovery which was presented to the European Council on 10 April. The European Council is holding a [videoconference](#) to discuss €540 billion package of initiatives on 23 April.
- During the European Parliament's extraordinary plenary session on 16-17 April, the [Corona Response Investment Initiative Plus](#) (CRII+) which introduces exceptional flexibility between the European Structural and Investment Funds, was [adopted](#). The adopted measures are expected to enter into force in the coming days after the Council of the EU formally approves the Parliament's position.

### European Commission & European Council

- On 15 April, the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the President of the European Council Charles Michel [presented](#) to the EU Member States a joint [European Roadmap](#) towards gradually lifting COVID-19 containment measures.

## Developments at national level

### Iceland

- On 17 April, **Icelandair** Group [announced](#) financial restructuring in order to secure its long-term profitability. To achieve this, the company is preparing to issue new shares.

## Austria

- On 17 April, **Austrian Airlines** [extended](#) short-time work arrangement of its 7,000 employees until 19 May.

## Germany

- *BBC* [reported](#) that **Lufthansa** would retire more than 40 aircrafts (mostly older, less fuel-efficient aircrafts). It will also close its budget airlines **Germanwings** as the demand is not expected to return for “years”.

## EU stakeholders' reactions

- **ERA** [informed](#) (16 April) about the enrolment of new members listed below. The incentive to join ERA was to fight the disastrous effects of COVID-19.
  - Stobart Air
  - Cyprus Airways
  - West Atlantic
  - Georgian Airways
  - Air Mediterranean
  - Sevenair
  - Aircompany Armenia
  - Ellinair

## International updates

- According to the **Emirates** [press release](#) (15 April), the Gulf carrier is to be the first airline to conduct rapid COVID-19 tests for passengers able to operate 'COVID-19 free' flights (possibly gaining a huge competitive advantage vis-à-vis other airlines).
- On 17 April, **ICAO** issued [guidance](#) describing pre-conditions, mitigations and limits to the COVID-19 flight and duty time extensions to help ensure that required levels of safety are maintained.