



28 April 2020

Read ECA PR [‘COVID-19: Thousands of aircrew redundant’](#)

EU level response

European Parliament

- On 21 April, the European Parliament’s Environment Committee (ENVI) [exchanged](#) views with the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans on the **EU Green Deal**. According to the EU journal *Euractiv* [article](#), Timmermans reassured the parliamentarians that “every Euro” spent on post-crisis economic recovery would be linked to the **green and digital transitions**.
- On 28 April, the European Parliament’s Transport Committee [exchanged](#) views with the EU Commissioner for Transport Adina-loana Valean touching on the aviation relief package. While Valean broadly avoided MEPs’ (*Johan Danielsson*, Sweden, center-left S&D; *Ciaran Cuffe*, Ireland, the Greens) questions about airline bailout conditionality connected to socially responsible re-building, and on the need to use EU Funds to ensure pilots’ employability (*Clare Daly*, Ireland, left-wing GUE), she confirmed that any investment from the EU budget has to be **green-proofed and smart-proofed**. She promised written replies to unanswered questions, though.

European Council

- On 23 April, the members of the European Council held a [videoconference](#) during which they welcomed the [Joint European Roadmap towards lifting COVID-19 containment measures](#), as well as the [Joint Roadmap for Recovery](#). The leaders further approved the creation of 3 safety nets for workers, businesses and sovereigns, amounting to a package worth €540 billion. Also, they agreed on the establishment of the **Recovery Fund**.
- On 29 April, EU Transport Ministers will hold an informal [video conference](#), to assess the measures taken so far to counter the **effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for the transport sector**. They will also discuss how to coordinate the relaxation of measures currently in place in the sector in the context of the EU’s exit strategy.

Developments at national level

Scandinavia

- The online journal *Aviation24.be* [reported](#) (20 April) that **Norwegian Air** laid off almost 5,000 pilots and cabin crew due to the termination of the crew provision agreements with its jointly owned OSM Aviation and other crewing agency subsidiaries. While some subsidiaries have declared bankruptcy (Norwegian Pilot Services Sweden, Norwegian Pilot Services Denmark, Norwegian Cabin Services Denmark), cooperation with other subsidiaries (with crew based in Spain, UK, Finland, Sweden and the US) has been discontinued by Norwegian Air.
- On 28 April, **SAS** published a [press release](#) announcing the reduction of its future workforce by up to 5,000 full-time positions. The reduction will be split with approximately 1,900 full-time positions in Sweden, 1,300 in Norway and 1,700 in Denmark. SAS is ready to quickly ramp-up operations if demand recovers.

Hungary

- According to the [article](#) in *AviationBusinessMe* (20 April), **Wizz Air**'s plans of the Abu Dhabi venture is on track for Q3 2020 despite the current 19% workforce cuts due to the Corona crisis.

Austria

- On 21 April, **Austrian Airlines** [presented](#) plan for a new start after the pandemic which counts on approximately 20% capacity reduction. According to the plan, the airline's fleet will go down from the current 80 aircrafts to 60 aircrafts in 2022.

UK & Spain

- On 24 April *AviTrader* brought [news](#) that **IAG** has re-launched negotiations with Globalia (the Spanish tour operator which owns Air Europa) on buying **Air Europa** for €1 billion.
- On 27 April, the news agency *Reuters* [informed](#) that **British Airways** is planning to run a consultation in order to evaluate possible cuts in 800 – 4,500 pilot jobs.

Ireland

- On 17 April, *Aviation24.be* [reported](#) that the Irish charter flights provider **CityJet** is under a court examination seeking protection from creditors. CityJet has grounded its fleet of 33 planes. Two of its subsidiaries in Sweden and Finland had to file for [bankruptcy](#) with related job losses.

Italy

- The Italian firm **Avioninteriors** announced (20 April) design for a new post-corona seats arrangement ('[Glassafe](#)' and '[Janus seat](#)') claiming to be able to deliver the products within 6 months.

Germany

- On 22 April, **Lufthansa** officially [appointed](#) new CEO Lufthansa Hub Munich Ola Hansson who will start in his new role as of 1 May.

Poland

- On 27 April, broker agency Warsaw Aviation [wrote](#) to its self-employed pilots flying for Ryanair's Polish subsidiary **BUZZ** that many of their contracts would be terminated.

EU stakeholders' reactions

- Ahead of the EU Transport Ministers e-meeting (29 April), different stakeholders are reacting:
 - On 27 April, **ECA** issued a press release '[COVID-19: Thousands of aircrew redundant](#)' reacting to the massive dismissals of pilots by airlines. ECA is particularly pointing to the critical situation of pilots who were employed on precarious atypical contracts (working through a temporary work agency and/or as 'self-employed'). Not only were these the first ones to be 'disposed of' by the operators, moreover these pilots cannot count on any support from their governments (as opposed to the airlines' direct employees who have been put on part-time schemes with governmental subventions). Therefore, any national or EU financial aid to airlines must be made conditional on socially responsible behaviour.
 - On 27 April, **A4E** [sent](#) an open letter to the EU Transport Ministers calling for mutual recognition of all measures implemented by EU Member States. Airlines stress out that these measures need to be constantly re-assessed and maintained temporarily (for air cargo operations the exceptional measures shall be continued as long as needed).
 - Ahead of the EU Transport Ministers e-meeting (29 April), **ACI Europe** called in a [press release](#) (28 April) for full EU coordination and alignment on how current restrictions to air travel should be lifted.
- Environmental NGOs (**Transport & Environment**, **Greenpeace**) published an [Airline Bailout Tracker](#) offering an overview of how much state aid airlines have been offered as per 22 April.

International updates

- On 20 April, **ITF** & **IATA** in a [joint statement](#) called on governments to assist the industry in order to save jobs of air transport workers.
- **IATA** also issued [Guidelines for Cabin Operations During and Post Pandemic](#) (22 April) and a [publication](#) (23 April) of new figures reflecting the estimated revenue loss of \$89 billion by European airlines in 2020 and passenger demand is projected to be 55% below 2019 levels.
- **IFALPA** COVID-19 Response Team (IRT) published an [editorial](#) (22 April) voicing the need for future aviation to be financially, environmentally and socially responsible.