

ACI EUROPE

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Europe's airports welcome EC review of aviation policy

For immediate release

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Brussels, 17 December 2014: Yesterday, the European Commission adopted its 2015 work programme, signalling clear political discontinuity and charting a new course for Europe. The Commission's work programme is based on 23 new priority initiatives focused on jobs, growth and investment. Amongst these is a review of EU aviation policy - based on a Communication that will identify the challenges facing European aviation and proposing measures for improving its competitiveness.

ACI EUROPE fully supports this review and stands ready to assist the Commission in this exercise.

Over the past weeks, through formal representations and several meetings with high level Commission officials, ACI EUROPE had indeed called for a 360° review of aviation policy targeted at redressing the competitive gap between European aviation and other World regions¹. With Europe increasingly dependent on external trade and actively seeking to attract foreign direct investment, the strategic relevance of aviation for jobs and growth is all too obvious – given the unparalleled global connectivity it provides to citizens and businesses as well as communities across Europe.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General, ACI EUROPE commented "*This is a promising start and we applaud Transport Commissioner Bulc. Seeing aviation amongst the new EC priorities in the context of its jobs and growth agenda is very encouraging news. The crucial benefits of air connectivity cannot be taken for granted, and Europe clearly needs to up its game and do what other regions of the World have been doing: use aviation to underpin economic growth, boost its global positioning and competitiveness.*"

He added "*We have already made detailed proposals to the Commission, which we feel should be included in a new start for European aviation. This policy review cannot be about paying lip service to Europe's airlines and airports. It will need a new and politically courageous approach – one that really considers the bigger picture of Europe's place in the globalised world.*"

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¹ The ACI EUROPE letter dated 7 November to Violeta Bulc, Transport Commissioner and its annexes is accessible [here](#). These annexes include the ACI EUROPE publication [Why Connectivity Matters](#) as well as [specific proposals](#) for a review of EU aviation policy.

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents more than 450 airports in 45 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming over 1.7 billion passengers each year.

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.