



Brussels, 01 October 2020

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

CC : *Ms Adina Vălean, Commissioner, Transport*
Ms Ylva Johansson, Commissioner, Home Affairs
Ms Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner, Health and Food Safety
Mr Didier Reynders, Commissioner; Justice

Dear President von der Leyen,

We refer to the letter sent to you on 17 September together with more than 20 other associations representing the travel and tourism sector and their workers, regarding the unsustainable situation as regards travel restrictions reinstated by EU States – in particular quarantines.

Since then, the situation has continued to deteriorate for Europe's airlines and airports, with an accelerated decline in passenger traffic. With infections increasing in several European countries and the epidemiological situation set to remain unstable for months, these national regimes of travel restrictions and quarantines will further limit the free movement of people – creating a paralysis of the internal market. This is not sustainable.

We need to move from crisis management to risk management, and thus learn to live - and travel - with the virus. With the end of the year approaching and many Europeans wondering whether they will be able to come together with their families and loved-ones for Christmas, re-establishing the free movement of people and air connectivity across our continent in a safe way must be a priority.

This is what an EU Testing Protocol for Travel would allow. Replacing the current patchwork of quarantines with a common EU Testing Protocol for Travel (EU-TPT) is urgently needed – and we are hereby reiterating our call for the Commission to lead the development of such protocol.

Testing travellers originating from high risk areas as per the common risk assessment proposed by the Commission would be a more effective response to the pandemic than quarantines as it would help reduce transmission both in communities and during air travel.

.../...

At the same time, this is an absolute prerequisite for the recovery of the travel and tourism sectors and the protection of the livelihood of the 27 million Europeans who rely on related jobs.

In order to support the Commission and EU States, we enclose our outline proposals for an EU-TPT for your attention. We are of course aware that many more questions and issues need to be addressed, but we are convinced these proposals constitute a starting point for the development of a fully-fledged EU-TPT.

We are therefore urging you once again to address this issue with Heads of State and Government and initiate work for an EU-TPT. We trust our proposals will accelerate this process.

We remain at your disposal.

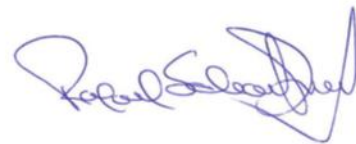
Yours sincerely,



Olivier Jankovec
Director General
ACI EUROPE



Thomas Reynaert
Managing Director
A4E



Rafael Schwartzman
Regional VP Europe
IATA

Annex.

About ACI EUROPE (Airports Council International)

ACI EUROPE is 'the Voice of Europe's airports', representing more than 500 airports in 46 countries. ACI EUROPE's members account for over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming 2.4 billion passengers and handling 21.2 million tons of freight. ACI EUROPE's member airports committed in 2019 to achieve Net Zero CO2 emissions for operations under their control by 2050.

About A4E (Airlines for Europe)

Launched in 2016, Airlines for Europe (A4E) is Europe's largest airline association, based in Brussels. The organisation advocates on behalf of its members to help shape EU aviation policy to the benefit of consumers, ensuring a continued safe and competitive air transport market. With more than 720 million passengers carried each year, A4E members account for more than 70 per cent of the continent's journeys, operating more than 3,000 aircraft and generating more than EUR 130 billion in annual turnover. Members with air cargo and mail activities transport more than 5 million tons of goods each year to more than 360 destinations either by freighters or passenger aircraft. Current members include Aegean, airBaltic, Air France-KLM Group, Cargolux, easyJet, Finnair, Icelandair, International Airlines Group (IAG), Jet2.com, Lufthansa Group, Norwegian, Ryanair Holdings, Smartwings, TAP Air Portugal, TUI and Volotea. In 2019, A4E was named "Airline & Aviation Business Development Organisation of the Year" by International Transport News. Follow us on Twitter @A4Europe.

About IATA (International Air Transport Association)

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 290 airlines or 82% of total air traffic. We support many areas of aviation activity and help formulate industry policy on critical aviation issues.