

Pilots from across Europe call on EU policymakers to reform Europe's airspace now

Brussels, 27 February 2023– Europe's leading airlines are calling on EU transport ministers to make the benefits of airspace reform a reality as they meet in Stockholm today. Pilots representing 9 A4E member airlines have come together in a new video to urge ministers to seize the opportunity and move the Single European Sky (SES2+) legislation out of the holding pattern it has been stuck in for many years.

Implementing the updated Single European Sky (SES2+), as proposed by the European Commission, would be a major step in creating a seamless European airspace. This would enable pilots to fly the most efficient routes possible which will reduce the amount of fuel used in-flight, reduce delays and deliver a reduction of around 7% in CO2 emissions.

The EU has been discussing airspace reform for decades without any real results to show for it. As airlines face into a busy summer and the prospect of ever more congested European airspace, the need for reform is clearer than ever.

Commenting on today's video, Laurent Donceel, acting Managing Director of Airlines for Europe (A4E) said:

"Member states have the opportunity to achieve a seamless and digitalised airspace in Europe by supporting the EU Commission's proposal to reform the Single European Sky (SES2+) legislation. Our pilots have a message for ministers today: We've been waiting too long for this important reform and it's time to take action on airspace now to deliver for passengers, for Europe and for the environment."

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About A4E

Airlines for Europe (A4E) is Europe's largest airline association, based in Brussels. A4E works with policymakers to ensure aviation policy continues to connect Europeans with the world in a safe, competitive and sustainable manner. As a key initiator of aviation's Destination 2050 roadmap, A4E and its members committed to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions for their own operations by 2050. With a modern fleet of over 3,200 aircraft, A4E airlines carried over 270 million passengers in 2021 — down from 700 million in 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, A4E members with air cargo and mail activities transport more than 3.7 million tonnes of goods, life-saving vaccines and essential medical equipment to more than 360 destinations either by freighters or passenger aircraft. Follow us on Twitter [@A4Europe](https://twitter.com/A4Europe)