

First actions from “Efficient Airspace” Declaration achieved -- revealing strength of collaborative approach in European sky reform

- **European Travel Commission (ETC) becomes latest partner to sign Declaration -- joining A4E airlines, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) and Eurocontrol initiative to improve EU airspace inefficiencies on behalf of passengers and the environment**

Madrid, 13 March 2019 – One of the key themes at this year’s World Air Traffic Management (ATM) Congress is how the industry is coping with Europe’s ever-growing ATM capacity shortages and related airspace inefficiencies, such as lack of a seamless European sky. According to the latest Eurocontrol data, record delays and cancellations affected some 334 million travellers (+26%) last year, resulting in a €17.6 bn cost to the EU economy -- a 28% increase compared to 2017.¹ A new study² also found that ATC strikes, technical failures and related operational inefficiencies have led to one million tonnes of avoidable CO2 emissions since 2014 -- on top of the additional emissions generated by not implementing EU airspace reform.

To alleviate existing bottlenecks and achieve short-term improvements on behalf of passengers and the environment, A4E airline COOs together with leaders from CANSO, EBAA, the ETC³ and Eurocontrol have signed the “Efficient Airspace” Declaration, agreeing a set of key principles and actions which could improve the situation. Given the impact such inefficiencies are having on inbound tourism to the EU -- threatening the reputation of Europe as a reliable tourist destination, the ETC joined the initiative at a signing at the A4E Aviation Summit on 6 March.

Several of the measures agreed in the Declaration have already been addressed and will be put into place by the start of the 2019 summer schedule, specifically:

- ✓ Eurocontrol Network Manager to implement a coordinated approach for handling network operations in summer 2019, addressing restrictions, weather, civil/military cooperation and unplanned events.
- ✓ Based on airline input, Eurocontrol Network Manager to implement, in cooperation with CANSO Member ANSPs, enhanced network measures to balance air traffic capacity with demand -- and accomplish the first steps towards a seamless European sky before summer 2019.

A4E’s Managing Director, Thomas Reynaert, addressed participants at the World ATM Congress during his panel, “The Big Crunch – Hard Talk on ATM Capacity” today: “The ‘Efficient Airspace’ Declaration has succeeded in reinvigorating enthusiasm for the vision of a seamless European sky of the future -- as part of the SES initiative -- and these past few months have shown that a combined effort among operational and political stakeholders is essential in order for real progress to occur”.

“The results from the European Commission’s Airspace Architecture Study underline the need to reconfigure and reform European airspace as well as create a legal and financial framework that rewards early movers. A4E welcomes both of these recommendations and we look forward to continuing the good work initiated through our Declaration to improve

¹ Eurocontrol presentation at European Aviation Club, February 2019

² [SEO Economics/To70 study summary: “Environmental impact of disruptions and airspace inefficiencies in Europe”, February 2019](#)

³ The German National Tourist Board abstains from this Declaration

passengers' travel experience and reduce the burden on our environment. In the meantime, we continue to set the standard in calling on national governments and the EU to make EU airspace reform a top political priority", Reynaert added.

"CANSO and its Members are working closely with the airspace users, European Commission, States, and other stakeholders to improve the resilience of the ATM network and achieve a truly seamless European sky. We look forward to continuing this collaborative approach to championing efficiency in Europe", said Tanja Grobotek – CANSO Director Europe Affairs.

"An efficient airspace is instrumental to European citizens, operators and European communities alike – and we will continue to tackle the current issues that are at stake and encourage Member States to aid in implementing solutions at the local level", said Robert Baltus, Chief Operating Officer, EBAA.

Notes to Editors:

[Link to A4E Seamless European Sky Backgrounder](#)

[Link to A4E Single European Sky Regulation Backgrounder](#)

About A4E

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 700 million passengers carried each year, A4E members account for more than 70 per cent of the continent's journeys, operating more than 2,900 aircraft and generating more than EUR 110 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, Cargolux, easyJet, Finnair, Icelandair, International Airlines Group (IAG), Jet2.com, Lufthansa Group, Norwegian, Ryanair, TAP Air Portugal, Smartwings and Volotea. In 2019, A4E was named "Airline & Aviation Business Development Organisation of the Year" by *International Transport News*. Read our [EU Elections Manifesto](#) and follow us on Twitter @A4Europe.

About EBAA

The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) is the leading organisation for operators of business aircrafts in Europe. Our mission is to enable responsible, sustainable growth for business aviation, enhance connectivity and create opportunities. EBAA works to improve safety standards and share knowledge, to further positive regulation, and to ease all aspects of closely tailored, flexible, point to point air transportation for individuals, governments, businesses and local communities in the most time-efficient way possible. Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter or visit our website on www.ebaa.org

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