

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE CEOs OF EUROPE'S LEADING AIRLINES

Aviation is vital for Europe. The Single Aviation Market, created over thirty years ago, has enabled millions of European citizens and businesses to connect with one another and the wider world. Today A4E member airlines contribute 4% of EU GDP and support 12.2 million jobs. Aviation not only strengthens Europe's economic power, but also continent's strategic independence.

A new term for the European Commission and the European Parliament is about to start. We the CEOs of the 17 major European airline groups representing over 80% of European air traffic, restate our firm commitment to Europe. We will continue to make our contribution to keeping Europe connected, making aviation more sustainable and promoting innovation and growth. Politics and the aviation industry need to join forces to overcome the considerable challenges ahead.

We want the EU's new policymakers to:

- **REINFORCE EU AIRLINES' COMPETITIVENESS**

Sustainability and competitiveness go hand in hand. The Draghi report clearly identifies the risk of business and carbon leakage, we have to close the legal loopholes and prevent this from happening.

- **SUPPORT THE DECARBONISATION OF AVIATION AND TRANSITION TO NET ZERO**

Accelerate the competitive decarbonisation of aviation. The Draghi Report on competitiveness estimates EUR 61 billion will have to be invested collectively every year between 2031-2050 to decarbonise our hard to abate sector. The new Clean Industrial Deal must include aviation, to ramp up production and bring down the cost of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs), encourage investment in innovative clean tech and support the transition to net zero.

- **IMPLEMENT AIR SPACE REFORM**

Our airline groups rely on the EU for a seamless European Sky and a single market to remain competitive both in Europe and globally. To avoid delays and bringing emissions down a reform of Europe's outdated airspace is overdue. One in every two flights were disrupted by airspace inefficiency and limited air traffic capacity this summer.

- **COMPLETE THE SINGLE MARKET**

to give legal clarity to passengers and airlines and ensure effective and objective oversight of all actors, from airports to air navigation service providers (ANSPs) and intermediaries.

To the incoming Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, the new Members of the European Parliament and the national governments of EU member states, we ask you to work with us to deliver a future of flying that is connected, dependable, modern, more sustainable and which remains available to all.



THIS OPEN LETTER IS SIGNED BY:

Micheal O’Leary – Ryanair, Chair of A4E

Bogi Nils Bogason – Icelandair

Marco Ciomperlik – TUI

Richard Forson – Cargolux

Luis Gallego – IAG

Martin Alexander Gauss – AirBaltic

Dimitris Georgiannis – Aegean

Steve Heapy – Jet2

Geir Karlsen – Norwegian

Turkka Kuusisto – Finnair

Johan Lundgren – EasyJet

Carlos Munoz – Volotea

Luis Rodriguez – TAP

Ben Smith – Air France-KLM Group

Carsten Spohr – Lufthansa Group

Roman Vik – Smartwings

Valdemar Warburg – Sunclass