

Making Europe the most efficient and environmentally friendly sky to fly in the world – The time is now!

A Joint Industry Declaration

10th October 2023

The European **Green Deal** aims to transform the European Union into world's first climate neutral bloc by 2050. This ambitious target requires profound changes across all sectors of the economy, including aviation, bringing the environmental impact of flying into focus.

In order to achieve this goal, a basket of measures will be needed, including **multiple technology pathways** (such as, among others, the uptake of Sustainable Aviation Fuels and the introduction of zero-emission aircraft) as outlined in Destination 2050. One of the pathways that can and should be implemented in the shorter term is the **optimisation of flight operations** through digital innovation in **Air Traffic Management (ATM)**. Achieving better efficiency in ATM holds the promise of maximising the capacity in the air, while reaching the optimum in routes flown by all operators, which in turn would eliminate a considerable amount of emissions.

With traffic levels gradually returning to pre-COVID levels, the European ATM system faces many challenges that are more critical than ever. Overcoming these challenges is key, as gaining capacity will also mean **transforming ATM to become truly sustainable while maintaining safety as a paramount feature**.

Facing this complex challenge will require **the deployment of digital tools to support the day-to-day operational decision-making of ATM players, unlocking the power of the latest breakthrough technologies fostered by SESAR**.

The effects of non-CO2 emissions will have to be addressed in the European ATM Master Plan, to evaluate impact and possible solutions as cooperative tools allowing to take them into account in the way we manage flight plans and flights capacity. **The main objective that we should aim for** and where we can generate a positive impact globally in the coming years, is **making the European airspace the most efficient and environmentally friendly sky to fly in the world**, and to do that as rapidly as possible.

We, the stakeholders including manufacturers, solutions providers, airspace users, airports and air navigation service providers, confirm our common goal of reducing the industry's environmental and climate footprint in line with the EU climate objectives. We acknowledge that this transformation requires a significant collective effort to boost cooperation and investment into breakthrough innovations. Most of this, however, cannot be addressed by any single stakeholder alone as, by essence, aviation requires common and coordinated action.

That is why we need to start **prioritising and optimising** our efforts now. As an immediate next step, we shall define our shared roadmap to realising this vision, notably through **updating the European ATM Master Plan**. Only a shared European roadmap connecting development and deployment with a strong sense of priorities will help us bring forward the necessary changes as quickly as possible, and make a real difference for citizens, the European industrial competitiveness and the future of our planet.



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