

**ACI EUROPE**

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# Contingency measures for a 'No Deal' Brexit will halt air connectivity growth

For immediate release

20 December 2018

**Brussels, 20 December 2018:** As part of its Brexit contingency planning for a no-deal scenario, the European Commission yesterday tabled a series of legislative proposals aimed at mitigating the worst impacts of a possible disorderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU.

The Regulation aimed at ensuring basic air connectivity confirms that air services currently operated between the UK and the EU27 will be maintained after 29 March 2019, for a period of 12 months. This provides additional reassurances for the travelling public and for countless communities across Europe that have come to rely on air connectivity for economic growth, jobs, trade links and tourism.

However, there is an important detail that should be highlighted. With this same Regulation, the Commission also makes clear - for the first time - that UK airlines will not be allowed to add new routes nor increase frequencies on currently operated routes during that same period. The capacity currently offered by UK airlines to the EU27 market will thus be frozen as of 29 March 2019 if the deal negotiated between the UK and the EU27 is not agreed.

**Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE** commented "*This restriction of air connectivity development from a no-deal scenario is a detail that matters. If also applied by the UK vis-à-vis EU27 airlines, it would ultimately result in the loss of 93,000 new flights and nearly 20 million airport passengers on the UK-EU27 market\*. With all these passengers departing or arriving in the UK but spread out across 27 other EU countries, UK airports and their communities would be disproportionately affected.*"

Jankovec concluded "*By contrast, the Brexit deal on the table would guarantee a business-as-usual scenario thanks to transition arrangements it foresees. All this shows that there is no such thing as a silver lining for aviation with the no-deal scenario – and that it must be avoided at all cost.*"

**## ENDS ##**

\* A passenger is counted at the departure and arrival airport separately. Likewise, each aircraft flight is counted as an air traffic movement at the departure airport and the arrival airport.

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*ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over **500 airports** in 45 European countries. These airports contribute to the employment of **12.3 million people**, generating **€675 billion each year (4.1%) of GDP** in Europe.*

**EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.**