



Airlines and airports welcome EC guidelines as encouraging step towards recovery - urge Member States to follow through with co-ordinated approach

Brussels and Geneva, 13 May 2020: IATA and ACI EUROPE, representing the airline and airport sectors, have welcomed the issuance today by the European Commission (EC) of a comprehensive framework aimed at effectively coordinating the restoration of transport services and allowing European citizens to safely plan and enjoy their summer holidays.

For both airlines and airports, the absolute priority in preparing for the restart of operations is the health and safety of passengers and staff. The Commission's package of Guidelines, placing emphasis on medically effective methods to protect health whilst enabling economic recovery, show industry and policy makers to be working to fully aligned and shared goals.

IATA and ACI EUROPE fully support these EC Guidelines, which provide EU States with comprehensive and articulated guidance for lifting current travel and border restrictions and for restoring air connectivity. Their timing is now crucial, as the epidemiological situation in Europe has started to improve, and tourism and local economies across Europe urgently need positive action to embark on the vitally important summer season.

Following the EC's statements today, ACI EUROPE and IATA urge European States to:

- Effectively follow this guidance and actively cooperate with airlines, airports and other aviation stakeholders in its further development and implementation – in ways that reflect the specific circumstances of air transport. A co-operative and open approach to the new normal will result in the best outcomes for society and the economy alike.
- Support the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) by continuously reporting on their epidemiological situation at national, regional and local level, so travel restrictions can be lifted as soon as the health situation allows – thus reflecting the EC's emphasis on timely reviews to ensure proportionate measures.
- Act in a coordinated and fully aligned way as regards the lifting of travel restrictions and border controls.

Airlines and airports stand ready to play their part in supporting aviation and health authorities. Both hold safety and security at the heart of their operations and already apply stringent standards of hygiene with public health at the fore. At the same time, the specific nature of our infrastructure and operations means that workable solutions must be found. We applaud the Commission's recognition of this fact in the measures outlined, for example in the feasibility of physical distancing in the aviation environment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

IATA and ACI have closely cooperated on these issues over the past weeks, and are releasing today their joint industry guidance: "[Safely Restarting Aviation: Joint IATA & ACI position](#)". They are looking forward to EASA further developing more detailed aviation guidance as announced by the European Commission.

ENDS

For more information, contact:

Virginia Lee, Director, Media & Communications, ACI EUROPE
Telephone: +32 (0)2 552 09 82
Email: virginia.lee@aci-europe.org

IATA Corporate Communications
Tel: +41 22 770 2967
Email: corpcomms@iata.org

*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 46 European countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe: **2.5 billion passengers, 20.7 million tonnes of freight** and **25.7 million aircraft movements** in 2019. In response to Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieve **Net Zero** carbon emissions for operations under their control **by 2050**, without offsetting.*

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.

IATA (International Air Transport Association) represents some 290 airlines comprising 82% of global air traffic. You can follow IATA at <https://twitter.com/iata> for announcements, policy positions, and other useful industry information.