



ACI EUROPE and EASA sign Cooperation Agreement as airport industry publishes Guidelines for a Healthy Passenger Experience

Brussels, 17 July 2020: Olivier Jankovec, Director General of Airports Council International Europe (ACI EUROPE), and Patrick Ky, Executive Director of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), today signed a groundbreaking agreement supporting the ongoing safe and secure recovery of aviation following the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cooperation Agreement for the implementation of the joint EASA/ECDC COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol further consolidates this operational guidance to airports and airlines as the European standard and reference for States to follow. Following ACI EUROPE's close involvement in the development of the Protocol, this agreement now commits the European airport trade body to coordinate the ongoing engagement of EASA with the European airport community.

Specifically, the cooperation agreement establishes a monitoring model in order to fine-tune and improve the Protocol in the light of operational practice and further developments. As such, this agreement complements EASA's [Aviation Industry Charter for COVID-19](#), through which a number of airports¹ report data back to the Safety Agency.

Along with the signature of the cooperation agreement, ACI EUROPE also published its [Guidelines for a Healthy Passenger Experience at Airports](#).

Endorsed by EASA, this comprehensive document marks the culmination of ACI EUROPE's OFF THE GROUND initiative to support a safe and coordinated restart. These Guidelines provide detailed step-by-step guidance and advice to airports on how to implement the [EASA/ECDC COVID-19 Aviation Health Safety Protocol](#) – considering all possible actions, methodologies, technologies and implications in terms of facility and resource management as well as communications.

Olivier Jankovec said: *“Working hand in hand with regulators and industry stakeholders is key to a safe and effective recovery of aviation. This is what airports have been committed to all along in this crisis and the cooperation agreement we have signed today with EASA is another reflection of that.”*

He added: *“There is no doubt that the Aviation Health Safety Protocol developed by EASA and ECDC has been instrumental in restarting of aviation. This is indeed the standard that Europe's airports are following. The ACI EUROPE Guidelines we are releasing today are built upon this Protocol. They complement it by providing airports concrete advice and solutions to adapt to the new normal in operations and customer service. In doing so, our guidelines take stock of a new category of passengers - the health-concerned passenger - and also look at how we can harness technological developments*

¹ More than 30 European airport operators have signed up to the Charter, including: AENA, Aéroport Nice Côte d'Azur, Aéroport Toulouse-Blagnac, Aeroporti di Roma S.p.A., Ankara Esenboga Airport - TAV Esenboga, Athens International Airport S.A., Brussels Airport Company, Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport, Copenhagen Airports A/S, Enfidha-Hammamet Airport - TAV Tunisie, Fraport AG, Fraport Greece, Fraport TAV Antalya Airport, Gazipasa Alanya Airport – TAV Gazipasa, Groupe ADP Paris Orly Airport, Helsinki Airport, Istanbul Airport (LTFM/IST) Iga Havalimani İşletmesi A.Ş., Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport – TAV Ege, Krakow Airport, Manchester Airport Group (Stansted), Milas Bodrum Airport – TAV Milas-Bodrum, Monastir Habib Bourguiba Airport - TAV Tunisie, Munich Airport, Naples Airport, Paris CDG Airport, Riga International Airport, Royal Schiphol Group, S.E.A. Aeroporti di Milano, SAVE S.p.A. Venice Airport, Skopje Airport - TAV Macedonia, Tbilisi Airport - TAV Georgia, Vienna International Airport, Zagreb International Airport

and digitisation. The priority and focus are clear: this is about delivering a safe end-to-end journey unrivalled in any other transport mode.”

Patrick Ky said: “We welcome the leadership shown by ACI EUROPE in embracing the EASA/ECDC Aviation Health Safety Protocol and developing further practical implementation advice for their members. Effective implementation and consistent application of the Protocol in Europe and beyond is fundamental to the restoration of customer confidence in the aviation industry after the collapse in passenger traffic as a result of the pandemic.”

He added: “Recovery from this unprecedented crisis requires coordination at European and international level and in this context EASA is pleased to build on its partnership with ACI. The pledge made by many ACI members through the EASA Aviation Industry Charter to contribute to the monitoring of the Protocol implementation ensures that we have the feedback loop necessary to consistently refine the guidelines, so as to provide the best and safest possible experience for travellers.”

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Note to editors:

- **ACI EUROPE (Airports Council International)** 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 the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieve Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.
- **The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)** is the centrepiece of the European Union's strategy for aviation safety. Our mission is to promote and achieve the highest common standards of safety and environmental protection in civil aviation. Based in Cologne, the Agency employs experts and administrators from all over Europe.

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