

## **ETF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MOTION: Destructive actions by civil aviation companies**

The Management Committee of the European Transport Workers' Federation which represents around 5 million transport workers Europe-wide, among them approx. 370,000 aviation workers from all sub-sectors including airlines, airports, service providers and air traffic management, at its meeting on 4 May 2020:

Noted that:

- In the run-up to International Workers Day last week, British Airways (BA) made a surprise announcement that it plans to let go up to 12000 of its workers, among them the entire cabin crew;
- BA plans to re-hire some cabin crew members, but only after they re-apply for the positions and on inferior contracts. This way, British Airways will swiftly destroy quality jobs and replace them with more precarious jobs;
- BA's decision undermines all the efforts made by trade unions to come up with a common, sector-wide solution to the crisis;
- Trade unions such as Unite the Union, have been in talks with the government for months now, trying to come up with a joint plan that keeps the aviation industry afloat;
- These actions are irresponsible and dangerous, putting thousands of workers in a precarious situation;
- The company could have taken a different course of action and requested state aid - other companies that are part of the International Airlines Group (IAG), such as Iberia, went in that direction;
- Other airlines have announced similar plans, most notably Lufthansa with 10000, SAS with 5000, Virgin Atlantic with 3000, and Norwegian with 4000 workers being let go.

ETF Management Committee:

- Expresses its full support for the workers of British Airways and, in line with Unite the Union's demands, calls upon the airline to withdraw the redundancy notices.
- Reiterates its opposition to opportunistic and destructive tactics by airlines. Using a global pandemic as an excuse to cut jobs and worsen working conditions is not acceptable and will be resisted.
- Underlines that this is not the only example of mass dismissals in European aviation and that an EU-wide plan is needed to address this situation. While this the most egregious attempt at capitalising on the crisis, other airlines have resorted to similar measures. The EU and the member states need to approach this issue jointly and ensure respect for workers' rights every step of the way.

