



Ursula von der Leyen  
President  
European Commission

Copy: Margrethe Vestager, Executive Vice President

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Brussels/Warszawa, 9 June 2020

Madam President,

**ETF and ZZPiL firmly support the state aid for Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT (PLL LOT)**

We are writing you today on behalf of the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), representing 5 million transport workers in European transport and more specifically, around 370,000 workers in European aviation, together with our member organisation, Związek Zawodowy Personelu Pokładowego i Lotniczego (Trade Union of Cabin and Flight Crew) concerning the state aid for PLL LOT.

The coronavirus pandemic and travel restrictions related to it have led to the collapse of the aviation industry worldwide and also PLL LOT is facing this crisis. Therefore, a financial support from the state (upon approval by the European Commission) will surely be needed. It is our understanding that in line with the current rules, the Commission may raise objections given the fact that PLL LOT has received stated aid within the last 10 years. We are convinced however that the situation is extraordinary and incomparable to what we have known thus far. Never before, so many jobs have been threatened and the danger of collapse of the entire industry is imminent.

Based on the above, ETF together with ZZPiL appeal on the European Commission to grant an approval for the state aid provided to PLL LOT by the Polish government.

In the current crisis we must fight for every job, for every crew member, so everyone can survive the crisis and build the future of our airline. Unfortunately, over 2000 flight attendants and pilots, including members of ZZPiL, are deprived of their social and employee rights.

They provide services through the intermediary of subsidiary companies of PLL LOT as single company owners in bogus self-employment arrangements. Based on our legal analysis, we believe that this construction is illegal and results in precarious conditions and creates high tensions among crews working side by side on different conditions. We therefore believe that providing financial assistance should be linked to fair employment of flight attendants and pilots. The same condition should also be applied to newly established entity LOT Polish Airlines, which, in the near future, might substitute the current airline Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT.

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The crisis is a huge threat to PLL LOT but also a chance to develop new social relations within the organisation and establish mutual trust. Employment under an employment agreement would be a first step towards it.

We acknowledge that this is a very difficult time, the employees are ready to agree to salary reductions and other sacrifices. We do not, however, agree to have the responsibility for the company transferred to our shoulders, permanent income and working-time reduction, while the Management Board of PLL LOT together with management do not experience any reduction to their salaries whatsoever. It is in contradiction with the idea of solidarity and a demonstration of contempt for those who are paid the least.

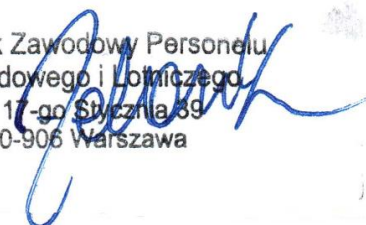
LOT Polish Airlines is a company with a 92-year tradition. We work in and for it with passion, love, and commitment. Therefore, we kindly request the Commission to help us preserve this tradition and the crane symbol in the sky.

We remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,



Livia Spera  
General Secretary  
European Transport Workers' Federation



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