



Eamonn Brennan
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EUROCONTROL

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Dear Mr. Brennan,

EUROCONTROL Aviation Hardtalk Live

I am writing to you on behalf of the European Transport Workers' Federation, representing 5 million transport workers including approximately 370,000 aviation workers around Europe.

It was with great interest and appreciation that we have learnt about the launch of EUROCONTROL Aviation Hardtalk series of interviews. We've been asking the question "how can we build back better European aviation after COVID-19" ourselves and agree with you that the answers need to be "be explored with industry leaders".

However, we are concerned about your biased selection of guests and one-sided approach to the interviews. EUROCONTROL Aviation Hardtalk Live #1 with Wizz Air CEO Jozsef Varadi unfortunately only confirmed our worry that Andrew Charlton, the managing director of Aviation Advocacy, would not be keen on challenging his interviewees in this webinar. The notion that free market solves everything has been omnipresent in the conversation, and not once was the speaker challenged on this. The fact that market solutions are often short-sighted and benefit only a lucky few at the expense of others was overlooked entirely. This is a grave oversight in an industry with consistently deteriorating working conditions impacting the workforce and their families across Europe.

The upcoming EUROCONTROL Aviation Hardtalk Live #2 with IAG's Founding CEO, Willie Walsh, who "successfully drove over the last decade the group's evolution to today comprise Aer Lingus, British Airways, Iberia, LEVEL and Vueling" will be an interesting one, too. However, we are not so sure that the 12,000 BA workers would agree the "fire and re-hire-on-inferior-contracts-tactic" has been much of a success, to give just one example. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to this interview as well, and we sincerely hope it won't be another missed opportunity for a fact-based, balanced exchange.

When you were questioned in the European Parliament's Transport Committee about the selection of speakers to Aviation Hardtalk events, you insisted that this is a series of events and your speaker's views "are their own". Furthermore, you said that EUROCONTROL are "very firmly committed that everybody talks to everybody and understands what the issues are. You need to understand low cost, you need to understand traditional, all these kind of

things. We don't take political views why somebody should be included or not included." Here, we could not agree more. Indeed, if one wants to talk aviation, a broad perspective taking into account diverse views of all its key players is absolutely necessary.

We believe now it is time to live up to the statements you've made. While we understand EUROCONTROL's role is different to the one of the British Broadcasting Corporation, for example, your selection of speakers so far is clearly biased against workers and their representatives. We were hoping you could consider taking a more critical approach towards CEOs and industry leaders who are often well known for lack of respect to labour rights. It is clear today that the COVID-19 pandemic has turned out to be the worst crisis in the entire aviation history. All players in the sector have been severely affected. However, actions of some of the biggest aviation players have been opportunistic and destructive and in many cases have undermined all the efforts made by trade unions to come up with a common, sector-wide solution to the crisis. It would be much appreciated if you could take the aspect of social conditions and the impact of the biggest aviation players' actions on society into consideration in your next talks.

Finally, we would like to point out to you that the European Transport Workers' Federation is the biggest representative of transport workers in Europe. We voice the concerns of aviation workers from all its sub-sectors, from air traffic management through cabin crew and pilots to ground handling workers. If you really wish to keep your Aviation Hardtalk series as unbiased and apolitical as you claim, then we will be more than happy to take part in one of the next talks and look in detail at the state of the sector from a diverse perspective of all aviation workers we represent.

Respectfully,



Josef MAURER
Head of Aviation and Operations