



**Airline
Coordination
Platform**



Joint Statement by the European Social partners in Civil Aviation on Covid-19 inoculation for aviation workers

The European Social partners in Civil Aviation welcome the recent progress on Covid-19 vaccines development, which should prepare society for the Covid-19 recovery phase, and assist in restarting the European economy as soon as possible.

On 19 January 2021, the European Commission adopted a [Communication](#) calling on Member States to speed up the roll out of vaccines across the EU: “By March 2021, at least 80% of people over the age of 80, and 80% of health and social care professionals in every Member State should get vaccinated. By summer 2021, Member States should have vaccinated a minimum of 70% of the entire adult population.”

Aviation workers are essential and crucial to Europe’s economic recovery and to satisfy demand that will exist for cargo distribution including the logistics of vaccine delivery as well as the efficient movement of people that is critical to the functioning of the EU economy.

The availability of trained and vaccinated aviation workers will now be vital to transport the Covid-19 vaccine, which is expected to be the largest single transport challenge in history requiring the equivalent of over 8,000 747 cargo aircraft.¹ It should also be noted that passenger flights are highly important for cargo transport, as about 50% of all air cargo is transported in the belly of passenger aircraft.

The European economy is furthermore heavily dependent on air travel for employment and connectivity. Air transport infrastructure is a critical component of restarting the economy and employment across the Union.

The availability of aviation workers will allow European aviation to increase capacity, restore passenger confidence, and re-establish connectivity throughout Europe, both for business and leisure travel. The restart of European aviation will also help to secure jobs (IATA estimates that between 6-7 million jobs supported by aviation are at risk because of the pandemic), and it is therefore important that aviation workers are available as aviation capacity ramps up, currently expected from the IATA Summer 21 season.

Although the rollout of the vaccine is at an early stage, and most predictions are that it will be well into 2021 before vaccines are widely available, it is important that planning commences early to ensure a smooth roll out. The European Social Partners fully support the prioritisation of frontline healthcare workers and the medically vulnerable for Covid-19 vaccination. Thereafter, Governments

¹ <https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-09-09-01/>

should give priority to critical infrastructure workers whose activities facilitate the restart of the European economy. In particular, priority should be given to public facing workers in critical infrastructure industries which have been badly affected by Covid-19 restrictions. This includes aviation personnel. Accordingly, we call on Member States to already include the inoculation of essential aviation workers in their Covid-19 vaccination rollout preparedness plans. Clear coordination and engagement between Member States and the undersigned Social Partners will also assist in ensuring an efficient inoculation programme, and we stand ready to assist as required.

Brussels, 1 February 2021

This statement is issued jointly by the following Members of the European Civil Aviation Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee:

Airline Coordination Platform (ACP)
Airlines for Dialogue (A4D)
Airlines International Representation in Europe (AIRE)
Airport Services Association (ASA)
Airline Catering Association (ACA)
ACI EUROPE (ACI)
European Regions Airline Association (ERA)
European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)