

Joint Statement of EU social partners calling for the

Immediate suspension and reassessment of the EU-Qatar Air Transport Agreement

5 February 2026

We, the undersigned European social partners of civil aviation, representing both employers and employees in the wider civil aviation sector, wish to reiterate our serious concern regarding the EU-Qatar Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement. Recent developments have further weakened confidence in the integrity and transparency of the process through which this agreement was negotiated and is being applied. Pending full clarification of corruption allegations, the agreement should be immediately suspended. Unrestricted market access to the European Union cannot be the product of compromised negotiations.

According to media reports published in late January 2026, the European Commission has decided to terminate the employment of one of its highest-ranking officials, under whose leadership the negotiations of the deal took place. This dismissal followed an inquiry by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and an internal disciplinary procedure. Reports refer to concerns related to compliance with rules on conflicts of interest, transparency, gift acceptance, and document disclosure.

These events occur in a broader context of heightened scrutiny of relations between EU institutions and Qatar, within the field of aviation and beyond, reinforcing the need for prudence, transparency, and credibility in this file. This is all the more justified, because – as employers and employees have long expressed – the Agreement fails to establish an overall economic balance and has failed to deliver on fair competition. At a time when European air carriers are facing mounting regulatory challenges and global competitive pressures, it is essential that international aviation agreements demonstrably support a level playing field and do not further weaken the economic and social sustainability of the sector.

In light of the above, and while further inquiries and assessments remain ongoing, we believe it is both inevitable and necessary to pause the provisional application of this agreement in order to restore trust and ensure that any final outcome fully aligns with the EU's principles of transparency, fair competition, and social responsibility.

We therefore urge:

- **the European Commission** to suspend the provisional application of the EU-Qatar Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement until all outstanding concerns related to the negotiation process and governance issues have been conclusively addressed;

- **EU Member States** to acknowledge these concerns and withdraw political support for the agreement at this stage, thereby encouraging a reassessment of its continuation under the current conditions;
- **the European Parliament and EU national parliaments** to clearly state that ratification of the agreement should not proceed until a renewed, credible, and transparent process has been ensured.

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

European Cockpit Association (ECA)

European Network Airlines' Association (ENAA)

European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)