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E-001491/2020

Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.7.2020)

The COVID-19 outbreak is having a major impact on the international and European aviation industry. In order to help ease the impact of the outbreak, the Commission acted quickly to put forward a proposal to temporarily alleviate airlines from their airport slot usage obligations under EU law. The amendment to the Slot Regulation¹ was adopted on 30 March 2020. A waiver for the slot usage requirements will apply from 1 March to 24 October 2020, to cover the entire summer season. If the current serious situation persists, the measure can be extended quickly by means of a Commission delegated act.

The Commission is very closely monitoring the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and is in permanent contact with the authorities of the Member States as well as with aviation industry stakeholders.

For example, the Commission has published its *Guidelines on EU passenger rights regulations in the context of the developing situation with Covid-19*² and *Guidelines on Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak*³. The Commission has also adopted a Temporary Framework⁴, which sets out the possibilities Member States have under State aid rules to ensure liquidity and access to finance for undertakings in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available to businesses during and after the COVID-19 outbreak. The Commission also proposed a European Solvency Support Instrument and the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) instrument for public support to preserve employment. These measures come on top of significant State support that several EU countries have given to airlines. Further measures will be considered as the need arises.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2020:099:TOC>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20201830.pdf>

³ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/what_is_new/sa_covid19_temporary-framework.pdf