



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

The Director-General

Brussels  
MOVE/HH

Mr Jan KLAS  
CEO Committee Chair Europe  
Ms Tanja GROBOTEK  
Director Europe Affairs

CANSO

By email only

**Subject: RP3 re-design – your letter of 14 May 2020**

Dear Mr Klas, Dear Ms Grobotek,

*DEAR JAN, DEAR TANJA*

I take good note of your letter of 14 May 2020 concerning the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on air navigation service provision, including the related exceptional measures being considered by the Commission for the performance and charging scheme implementation in RP3.

We do acknowledge the significant, adverse consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on the air transport sector as a whole, including the gravity of the situation for air navigation providers whose revenue depends on air traffic volumes. Accordingly, our focus is to promote the gradual, sustained recovery of air transport.

In this context, it is important to ensure that airlines are not faced with a heavy additional financial burden associated with air navigation charges over the next years, as this would undermine the future growth of air traffic. To this end, the Commission is considering to exceptionally revise the rules for the traffic risk sharing, the implementation of related carry-overs and unit rate adjustments applicable under the performance and charging scheme.

In addition, it is important that air navigation service providers maintain their financial strength and adequate levels of liquidity. Further debt financing should be explored, together with other options to be considered at national level. It should be recalled that the performance and charging scheme already foresees the possibility for Member States to financially support the provision of air navigation services through the mechanism of other revenue.

As regards RP3 target setting, it is clear that the assumptions underlying the Union-wide targets and the draft performance plans adopted in 2019 are no longer valid in light of the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, a suspension of the ongoing performance planning and assessment processes, followed by the setting of revised performance targets at EU and local level, is necessary.

In the meantime, we expect all air navigation service providers to undertake measures necessary to address the change of circumstances caused by the COVID-19 crisis, including by adapting their activities and reducing costs accordingly. This should include further efforts similar to those applied in other economic sectors that are operating in a competitive environment, where measures have been taken also in relation to existing contractual and employment conditions.

To this end, I also would like to ask CANSO to provide us with concrete information on measures that air navigation service providers have taken or plan to take for this year and for the year 2021, which will reduce their cost base in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have asked the PRB to collect and summarise this information for us. The PRB will also directly contact you to provide more details on the required data.

Furthermore, I can confirm that we are planning to submit to the Single Sky Committee, in June 2020, a draft implementing regulation including the necessary exceptional measures for RP3.

I suggest that you discuss this matter further with my colleagues Filip Cornelis and Christine Berg. Their respective secretariats will contact you soon in order to schedule such a meeting. Thank you in advance for your constructive engagement in this process.

Yours faithfully,



Henrik HOLOLEI

c.c.: Ms Regula Dettling-Ott, PRB Chair