



European Green Deal: new law agreed to cut aviation emissions by promoting sustainable aviation fuels

Brussels, 26 April 2023

The Commission welcomes the political agreement on the **ReFuelEU Aviation** proposal, reached yesterday between the European Parliament and the Council. Once in place, the new rules will help decarbonise the aviation sector by requiring fuel suppliers to blend sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) with kerosene in increasing amounts from 2025.

This measure on its own is projected to reduce aircraft CO₂ emissions by around two-thirds by 2050 compared to a 'no action' scenario, and provide climate and air quality benefits by reducing non-CO₂ emissions.

The deal marks the last agreement on the transport proposals within the 'Fit for 55' package, as agreements on [updated rules on emissions trading in the aviation sector](#) and in the [maritime sector](#), on [promoting sustainable fuels for shipping](#), as well as on the [accelerated deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure](#), were already reached.

Increasing amounts of sustainable aviation fuels

The new rules will require:

- 1) **Aviation fuel suppliers** to supply a minimum share of SAF at EU airports, starting at 2% of overall fuel supplied by 2025 and reaching 70% by 2050. The new EU jet fuel blend will need to also contain a minimum share of the most modern and environmentally-friendly synthetic fuels, which increases over time;
- 2) **Aircraft operators** departing from EU airports to refuel only with the fuel necessary for the flight, to avoid emissions related to extra weight or carbon leakage caused by 'tankering' practices (deliberately carrying excess fuel to avoid refuelling with SAF);
- 3) **Airports** to ensure that their fuelling infrastructure is available and fit for SAF distribution.

The blending mandate covers biofuels, recycled carbon fuels and synthetic aviation fuels (e-fuels) in line with the Renewable Energy Directive, but excludes food and feed crops, supporting sustainability objectives. Since it will apply throughout the EU, the new mandate will ensure a level playing field within the EU internal market, provide legal certainty to fuel producers and help kick-start large-scale production across the continent. It will also increase the EU's energy security by reducing dependencies on third-country sourced energy products and create thousands of new jobs in the energy sector. The EU's airlines will have access to increasing amounts of sustainable aviation fuel throughout the EU.

Next steps

Yesterday's political agreement now requires formal adoption by the Parliament and the Council. Once this process is completed, the new legislation will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and enter into force with immediate effect.

Background

This agreement is an important step towards the implementation of the Commission's ['Fit for 55' legislative package](#), and will help achieve the EU's climate ambitions under the European Green Deal.

Aviation emissions in Europe increased an average of 5% year-on-year between 2013 and 2019. While dropping dramatically during the pandemic, aviation emissions are still projected to grow further. The increased climate ambition of the aviation sector will be crucial for the EU to reach its climate objectives under the Paris Agreement and make the European Green Deal a reality.

To achieve climate neutrality, the EU needs to reduce transport emissions by 90% by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). RefuelEU Aviation will help the aviation sector contribute to achieving

that target, together with the [revised rules on the EU Emissions Trading System in the aviation sector](#).

For More Information

[Fit for 55 Proposals](#)

[Proposal for REFuelEU aviation](#)

IP/23/2389

Quotes:

The EU is setting all sectors on a pathway to climate neutrality, with the measures necessary to meet our 2030 and 2050 climate targets. We have now taken another important step towards reducing emissions in the aviation sector. Fuel suppliers at EU airports must provide an increasing share of sustainable aviation fuels and aircraft operators increase their use. The EU is ready for take-off towards a more sustainable future for aviation.

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal - 26/04/2023

This political agreement is a turning point for European aviation, putting it on a solid pathway towards decarbonisation. Shifting to sustainable aviation fuels will improve our energy security, while reducing reliance on fossil fuel imports. These kinds of measures help make Europe a front-runner in the production of innovative clean fuels, globally. We estimate that the SAF market will create more than 200,000 additional jobs in the EU, mainly in the renewables sector.

Adina Vălean, Commissioner for Transport - 26/04/2023

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