



European airports, transport workers and aviation suppliers call for urgent support in joint statement

Brussels, 13 May 2020: ETF, ASA and ACI EUROPE (working together as Social Partners) reiterated today the need for the European Parliament to support an extension of temporary derogations to the EU Ground Handling Directive beyond what has been proposed by the European Commission.

Such an extension is crucial to preserve jobs and the livelihood of workers in the airport ground handling sector, which is suffering the devastating impact of COVID-19. It is also needed to secure operational continuity and an orderly restart of airport operations across Europe. This is indispensable to support the restoration of air connectivity, tourism and economic activity.

The three associations representing transport workers, ground handling companies and airport operators jointly urged the European Parliament to vote in favour of extended derogations compared the ones proposed by the European Commission. They warned that failure to do so would put thousands of jobs at risk, as the Commission proposal is not enough to ensure the financial and operational continuity of ground handlers and their staff in these exceptional circumstances.

Specifically, ETF, ASA and ACI EUROPE ask for:

- The validity of ground handling licences expiring by 31 December 2022 to be prolonged for a maximum period of 3 years
- The possibility for temporary licences to be granted until 31 December 2022 for a maximum period of 3 years or until 31 December 2025 – whichever is longer.

ENDS

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