

Aviation industry calls on regulators to act swiftly and adopt airport slot relief measures

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Geneva, Montreal:

The Worldwide Airport Slot Board (WASB), comprising Airports Council International (ACI) World, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the Worldwide Airport Coordinators Group (WWACG) adopted a joint recommendation for airport slot use relief for the northern summer 2021 season¹ at the end of November 2020.

The WASB recommendation articulates a much-needed policy response on the allocation and use of airport slots that will preserve essential air connectivity and ensure consumer demand is served. The comprehensive approach laid out by the WASB should be implemented in full to reap benefits for the aviation industry. It will allow consumers to continue to benefit from restored air connectivity, airlines to optimize their schedules, and airports to efficiently plan and adjust their capacity to the anticipated level of traffic. States also stand to benefit from the massive social and economic benefits that the air transport sector would like to get back to delivering.

The allocation of airport slots follows a very strict calendar worldwide. Considering that the deadline for returning slots globally in the WASB recommendation is 08 February 2021, it is critical that the slot relief measures be adopted by Regulators in the timeliest manner to enter into force by 31 January 2021 at the latest. Without regulatory certainty, airlines are left unable to start schedule adjustments that in turn feed the whole aviation ecosystem much needed information for the summer season.

As the global associations of airports, airlines, and airport slot coordinators, we are therefore calling on Regulators to act with speed and certainty as any delay makes recovery for air transport, and the global economy, more difficult. Now more than ever, it is vital that Regulators swiftly adopt the WASB recommendation on a globally harmonized basis.

It is important that relevant authorities take appropriate action to secure the aviation industry the necessary predictability in the planning process in these extraordinary times, for the ultimate benefit of the traveling public which relies on the connectivity provided by airports and airlines.

¹ See the [WASB Airport slot alleviation measures for Northern Summer 2021](#)