

## EUACA COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE EU COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS INTENTION TO EXTEND THE SLOT USAGE WAIVER FOR THE ENTIRE WINTER 2020

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The European Airport Coordinators Association (EUACA) welcomes Commissioner Vălean's statement that the European Commission intends to extend a slot waiver at coordinated airports to the full winter season and that the European Commission expects the industry to voluntarily apply the conditions agreed between industry associations IATA, A4E, AIRE, ACI-Europe and EUACA. The Commissioner states: "*Airlines will now be able to start planning and making available any excess airport capacity for others to use.*". Based on the Commission's declaration EUACA considers that the airlines can now cancel all the slots that they do not plan to operate this winter so that coordinators can reallocate them. The statement may also give greater certainty for airlines operating at facilitated airports.

EUACA notes that the Slot Regulation amendment put in place earlier this year (EU2020/459) provides that slots can benefit from alleviation of the use-it-or-lose-it rule only if they are made available to coordinators for reallocation. In order to enable timely reallocation, the air transport industry -airlines, airports and slot coordinators - has agreed Community-wide guidelines by which airlines must cancel slots not intended for utilization at least three weeks before the day of operation as one of the conditions to be applied to the waiver. EUACA also calls on airlines to respect all the conditions agreed with airports and coordinators.

EUACA will continue to support the European Commission's plan to pursue legislation that -adapting to the circumstances- will lead towards a return to a normal slot regime.

EUACA calls on the Commission and the co-legislators to work quickly and to ensure the amended Regulation provides clear legal conditions to support fair alleviation from the use-it-or-lose it rule.