



Brussels, 25 September 2024

Ms Ylva Johansson  
Commissioner for Home Affairs  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

CC: *Mr Wopke Hoekstra, European Commissioner in charge of Transport*  
*Schengen Home Affairs Ministers*  
*Schengen Transport Ministers*  
*Schengen Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCAs)*

**Subject: Urgent Recommendations for the Successful Implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES)**

Dear Commissioner Johansson,

On behalf of A4E, ACI EUROPE, ERA and IATA — associations representing the global aviation sector operating in Europe — we would like to express our continued commitment to supporting the successful implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES). Over the past years, our organizations have worked closely with the European Commission and the Member States to ensure its smooth introduction.

As you are aware, the start of operations for the EES will have significant implications for the aviation sector. We share a common objective with the Commission and Schengen States: to ensure a seamless and effective implementation that avoids unnecessary disruptions for travellers, border authorities, airlines, and airports alike.

In light of recent indications from the European Commission that it is considering formally confirming the 10 November target date for the start of operations - despite several Member States indicating they are unable to declare their readiness, other having declared their readiness with conditionalities and the absence of end-to-end tests (with passengers) - we are urging you to consider the attached urgent considerations and recommendations, which are aimed at securing operational readiness and mitigate potential disruptions.

We look forward to discussing them with your services during our meeting next week.

Yours sincerely,

Ourania Georgoutsakou  
Managing Director  
A4E

Olivier Jankovec  
Director General  
ACI EUROPE



Montserrat Barriga  
Director General  
ERA



Rafael Schwartzman  
Regional Vice-President for Europe  
IATA

Annex.

**About A4E (Airlines for Europe)**

Launched in 2016, Airlines for Europe (A4E) is Europe's largest airline association, based in Brussels. The organisation advocates on behalf of its members to help shape EU aviation policy to the benefit of consumers, ensuring a continued safe and competitive air transport market. With more than 720 million passengers carried each year, A4E members account for more than 70 per cent of the continent's journeys, operating more than 3,000 aircraft and generating more than EUR 130 billion in annual turnover. Members with air cargo and mail activities transport more than 5 million tons of goods each year to more than 360 destinations either by freighters or passenger aircraft. Current members include Aegean, airBaltic, Air France-KLM Group, Cargolux, easyJet, Finnair, Icelandair, International Airlines Group (IAG), Jet2.com, Lufthansa Group, Norwegian, Ryanair Holdings, Smartwings, TAP Air Portugal, TUI and Volotea. In 2019, A4E was named "Airline & Aviation Business Development Organisation of the Year" by International Transport News.

**About Airports Council International (ACI EUROPE)**

ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 500 airports in 55 countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe. In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.

**About the European Regions Airline Association (ERA)**

Founded in 1980, European Regions Airline Association (ERA) is a non-profit trade association representing 50+ airlines plus around other 150 companies involved in European air transport, and is the only association that bring together the entire spectrum of companies involved in European aviation. The association supports and defends the airline industry in providing safe, efficient and sustainable air connectivity to all regions of Europe. By lobbying European regulatory bodies on policy matters, ERA promotes and protects social responsibility, environmental sustainability and the development of regional economies and local communities.

**About IATA (International Air Transport Association)**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 320 airlines or 83% of total air traffic. We support many areas of aviation activity and help formulate industry policy on critical aviation issues.