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European Transport Workers' Federation
Fédération Européenne des Travailleurs des Transports
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Federación Europea de los Trabajadores del Transporte

Mr Patrick Ky
Executive Director
European Aviation Safety Agency
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Brussels, 20 March 2020

Dear Director,
Dear Patrick,

Request for stronger measures on COVID-19

First of all, let me thank you for the productive meeting on Thursday 12 March 2020. Besides our statutory agenda, it was also a good opportunity to discuss the response on the crisis triggered by the spread of COVID-19.

We also appreciate that EASA has taken into account our comments on the universal precaution kits (UPK) and you decided to mandate them as part of the recently issued safety directives. This was an important first step and our affiliates have welcomed it. However, we believe that more needs to be done to address the safety of operations during the COVID-19 crisis.

IATA and ICAO give recommendations of the contents of the UPK's which I believe EASA would expect as a minimum. Numerous reports from our affiliates suggest that some airlines do not provide face, eye and body protection. It is our understanding that the composition of UPK is only recommended but not mandated by EASA. Moreover, airlines are now operating repatriation flights to/from the most affected areas and unlike normal citizens who have been advised by their governments to stay at home, airline crew and ground staff are in direct contact with potentially infected passengers while they are not able to practice social distancing due to the physical constraints of an aircraft or airport environment. We therefore urge you to mandate the composition of the UPK as well as give the crewmembers the right to wear an adequate protection during those high-risk flights.



President Frank Moreels

Acting General Secretary Livia Spera

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova



Another vital point concerns the inflight service. The continuation of passenger service unnecessarily exposes both passengers and crewmembers due to the impossibility of social distancing. Despite that, some airlines still force their cabin crew to continue performing non-safety critical tasks in the cabin. We therefore urge you to restrict the role of cabin crew to ensuring the safety of passengers and the flight.

Last but not least, our affiliates also report that the new rules on disinfection that were part of the recent safety directives are not being followed. We therefore ask the Agency to step up its pressure on the national aviation authorities to put in place increased oversight of such operations.

The COVID-19 crisis has hit aviation and the whole society. We can only win this battle if we join forces and make sure the rules in place are properly enforced.

Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,



Josef Maurer
Head of Aviation and Operations



President Frank Moreels

Vice Presidents Alexander Kirchner
Ekaterina Yordanova

Acting General Secretary Livia Spera

