



Name

Role

Address

May 2021

**Re: Benefit of Arrivals Duty Free to the European economy**

Dear [...],

We are writing to you with regard to the continued impact of the COVID-19 emergency in the European Union and the approach to bolster the recovery process. ACI EUROPE, ETRC, ETF, EFFAT and UNI represent airports, Duty Free and Travel Retail (DFTR) operators, and transport, hospitality, tourism and retail workers across Europe.

The European air transport industry and its partner sectors are not expected to recover from this crisis until 2024 at the earliest. The impact of Covid19 on the aviation sector will be felt for years to come as the crisis threatens the livelihoods of aviation sector workers across the EU. There is a duty to act to support this industry and the thousands of workers and their families that are placed at risk.

While immediate supports are necessary as an emergency measure it is also vital that longer term strategic thinking is applied to this issue. Putting the European aviation sector in the best possible position to rebuild. Identifying commercial opportunities and the providing companies with the means to leverage those opportunities

Duty Free and Travel Retail is a vital part of the European transport economy, providing European airports with important non-aeronautical revenues. It is a proven model which has been replicated across the world. However European legislation has fallen behind other countries which have introduced arrivals duty free sales for passengers. This has resulted in significant increases in the commercial opportunities for those airports.

An industry assessment<sup>1</sup> of the economic impact of arrivals duty shops in Europe found that across the EU as a whole tax and duty free arrivals shops would have supported around €4.3 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA), 41,500 jobs and €1.6 billion in tax revenues in 2019. For every million one way seats to non-EU destinations, tax and duty free arrivals shops would have supported €16 million in GVA, 155 jobs, and €6 million in tax revenues.

We are therefore calling for European legislation to be brought up to date and to introduce Arrivals Duty Free shops at EU airports. Retailers and airports need to be ready when international travel resumes, and must be supported to be able to maximise the commercial opportunities that come with the resumption of travel. This will ensure that these entities are better placed not only to support their existing work force but also to look to the future and create additional employment.

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1 "The Economic Impact of Arrivals Duty and Tax Free Shopping in the EU" York Aviation, October 2020 - [Link](#)



The introduction of arrivals duty free would also generate employment in the wider environment through increased business activity with suppliers and manufacturers.

We ask you for urgent support to protect these vulnerable EU jobs and bolster the economic recovery from this crisis, as recommended in the European Aviation Roundtable Report endorsed by over 20 European associations in November 2020<sup>2</sup>.

We remain at your full disposal should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

**Olivier Jankovec**

Director General

ACI Europe

**Livia Spera**

General Secretary,

European Transport Workers  
Federation

**Julie Lassaigne**

Secretary General,

European Travel Retail  
Confederation

**Kristjan Bragason**

Secretary General

European Federation of Trade Unions in the  
Food, Agriculture, and Tourism Trade unions

**Oliver Roethig**

Regional Secretary

UNI Europe

#### **About ACI EUROPE**

*Airports Council International Europe (ACI) represents over 500 airports in 46 European countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe: 2.5 billion passengers, 20.7 million tonnes of freight and 25.7 million aircraft movements in 2019.*

#### **About ETF**

*The European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) is a pan-European trade union organisation which embraces transport trade unions from the European Union, the European Economic Area and Central and Eastern European countries. The ETF represents more than 5 million transport workers from more than 200 transport unions and 41 European countries. These workers are found in all parts of the transport industry, on land, sea and in the air.*

#### **About ETRC**

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<sup>2</sup> Aviation Round Table Report on the Recovery of European Aviation, Section 4: Preserving the integrity of the Internal Market and the international competitiveness of European Aviation, P. 32- 40, November 2020.



*The European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) represents the European duty free and travel retail industry. ETRC is composed of national and regional affiliated trade associations representing over 200 European companies, Tax Free World Association (TFWA) representing 520 brand companies, and direct corporate membership from individual companies working in the duty free and travel retail trade across Europe and beyond.*

**About EFFAT**

*EFFAT is the “European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture, and Tourism sectors and allied branches” (EFFAT/IUF-Europe). The EFFAT/IUF-Europe headquarters are in Brussels. EFFAT/IUF-Europe is an organisation of independent and democratic trade unions representing all workers in the Food, Agriculture, Tourism, and Domestic Workers sectors as well as other related sectors, services, and activities in Europe. As the umbrella organisation of 116 national trade unions from 37 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 25 million workers towards the European Institutions, European industrial federations, and enterprise management.*

**About UNI Europa**

*UNI Europa, is the European Trade Union Federation for 7 million service sector workers. It speaks for the sectors that constitute the backbone of economic and social life in Europe. Headquartered in Brussels, UNI Europa represents 272 national trade unions in 50 countries.*