

FREIGHT FORWARDERS' MESSAGES TO DECISION MAKERS ON AIR FREIGHT

AIR FREIGHT TRANSPORT FACILITATES THE SWIFT AND SECURE MOVEMENT OF GOODS, INCLUDING VALUABLE AND TIME—OR TEMPERATURE- SENSITIVE PRODUCTS

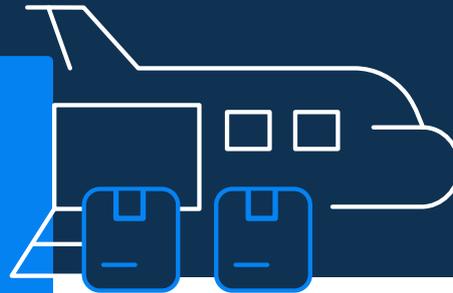
CLECAT, the European Freight Forwarders' Association, has set its **priorities for the next five years (2024-2029)**. Central to these priorities is the recognition of the indispensable role of air freight in international trade. As demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, air freight, as an integral part of international supply chains and logistics, is of great value to society and the European economy. It is, therefore, important that new policies sustain and enhance the efficiency, sustainability, and resilience of the air cargo sector.

Aviation is growing faster than airports can accommodate. Therefore, at some airports the maximum capacity will be reached within 5 years. This could have negative consequences on the position of full-freighter flights at airports. Due to the increased demand for air cargo, some airports are already facing severe congestion challenges in their daily operations. With several Fit-for-55 legislative texts driving its decarbonization and heightened discussions surrounding airports and noise pollution, it is important to address the challenges of air freight.



WITH THIS IN MIND, CLECAT CALLS ON DECISION MAKERS IN AIR FREIGHT TO:

- **Recognize the unique business model of air cargo**, the specific challenges it faces, such as limited aircraft availability and operational models impacting aircraft noise. This understanding is crucial given aviation's significance for European and global supply chains.
- **Facilitate dialogue and collaboration among EU policymakers and industry stakeholders** to address the Fit-for-55 implementation challenges and ensure support for the air cargo and logistics sector in the upcoming term.
- **Promote and incentivise the uptake of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs)** and advocate for solutions such as book & claim mechanisms to drive SAF adoption.



- **Prioritize completing the Single European Sky (SES)** to establish a harmonized air traffic management system, reducing delays and unnecessary CO₂ emissions by up to 10%, thereby contributing to the sector's decarbonization goals and enhancing safety and cost efficiency.
- **Revise the EU Slots Regulation** to mitigate airport congestion to effectively address the escalating congestion at EU airports. This revision should establish fair, non-discriminatory, and transparent rules for the allocation of landing and take-off slots, ensuring optimal utilization and fostering fair competition.
- **Facilitate digitalisation** in the air freight industry, supporting global initiatives such as ONE Record which will allow a digital exchange of information between Air Cargo stakeholders, communities and data platforms and will provide end-to-end visibility.
- **Assess the need for a revision of Directive 96/67/EC** on access to the ground handling market at Community airports to promote competitiveness, efficiency and punctuality of services while maintaining a high level of security.
- **Reject proposals to tax kerosine for air freight** since these taxes are governed by international treaties.
- **Strengthen the collaboration between trade, agencies, and authorities** in support of smart regulations that would facilitate trade, ensure safety, and compliance, without bringing hindrance to the operations, like slowing transit time at loading and transhipment.

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