



AVIATION DAY CONFERENCE  
WELCOME SPEECH

MR. PEDRO NUNO SANTOS, MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING,  
MADAM ADINA VĂLEAN, COMMISSIONER FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT  
DEAR SPEAKERS,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

A VERY GOOD MORNING TO ALL OF YOU PRESENT HERE AND TO EVERYONE  
ATTENDING THIS CONFERENCE ONLINE.

IT IS AN HONOR TO BE HOSTING THIS AVIATION DAY CONFERENCE UNDER THE  
PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION.

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME YOU HERE IN LISBON - OUR  
BEAUTIFUL CITY AND, OF COURSE, TO BE FOLLOWED ONLINE.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU ALL IN PERSON, BUT IN THESE CHALLENGING TIMES  
WE ARE FACING HYBRID EVENTS WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE US WITH  
ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF ATTENDANCE, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.

WE ARE PROUD AND VERY HAPPY TO HAVE SUCH DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS  
TODAY, THAT I'M SURE WILL PROVIDE VERY IMPORTANT AND FRUITFUL  
DISCUSSIONS ON THE RECOVERY AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AVIATION.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE APPRECIATION TO EVERYONE  
INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THIS EVENT.



FOR THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO STRENGTHEN EUROPE'S RESILIENCE AND CITIZENS' CONFIDENCE IN THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL MODEL, PROMOTING A UNION BASED ON THE COMMON VALUES OF SOLIDARITY, CONVERGENCE AND COHESION - A UNION ABLE TO ACT IN A COORDINATED WAY TO RECOVER FROM THE CRISIS.

TO THIS END, THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY IS WORKING ON THREE MAIN PRIORITIES:

1. PROMOTING A EUROPEAN RECOVERY LEVERAGED BY THE CLIMATE AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS;
2. IMPLEMENTING THE SOCIAL PILLAR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO ENSURE A FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CLIMATE AND DIGITAL TRANSITION;
3. STRENGTHENING THE STRATEGIC AUTONOMY OF A EUROPE OPEN TO THE WORLD.

THIS AVIATION DAY CONFERENCE WILL BE DEBATING ON THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AVIATION, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION.

THIS PANDEMIC POSES AN UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE AND THE WHOLE WORLD. THIS GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS HAS HAD DRAMATIC EFFECTS ON THE SOCIETIES AND ECONOMIES OF EU MEMBER STATES, REQUIRING URGENT, DECISIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE ACTION AT EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

IN EUROPE, THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE REDUCTION OF AIR TRAVEL WAS PARTICULARLY HARSH AND MAY AMOUNT TO AROUND 7 MILLION DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS LOST. IT IS ALSO THE REGION WHERE THE GROWTH OF DEMAND IS SLOWER, INDICATING THAT THE RECOVERY FROM THIS HEALTH CRISIS WILL BE LONGER THAN INITIALLY ESTIMATED.



THE NEED TO RESTORE PASSENGER CONFIDENCE IN AIR TRANSPORT REQUIRES A COHERENT SET OF RULES AND PROCEDURES ACROSS BORDERS AND DOMAINS.

THE CART TAKE-OFF GUIDANCE, THE GUIDELINES TO RESTORE TRANSPORT SERVICES AND CONNECTIVITY ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AND THE HEALTH SAFETY PROTOCOL BY EASA AND ECDC ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW AVIATION AUTHORITIES AND INDUSTRY HAVE DONE EXTENSIVE WORK TO IMPLEMENT HARMONISED AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTED SAFETY, SECURITY AND FACILITATION MEASURES.

THIS GUIDANCE BUILT THE NECESSARY FRAMEWORK FOR MEMBER STATES TO WORK ON A CO-ORDINATED MANNER AND CREATE THE BASIS FOR RESTARTING AVIATION IN EUROPE, FACILITATING THE GRADUAL AND SAFE RESTORATION OF COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORT BY REDUCING THE RISK OF SARSCOV-2 TRANSMISSION AT AIRPORTS AND ON BOARD AIRCRAFT.

ALTHOUGH MANY MEASURES WERE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR WORK TO PREPARE JOINT AND COORDINATED RESPONSES AT REGIONAL LEVEL, ENSURING A GRADUAL AND SAFE RESUMPTION OF AIR TRANSPORT CONSISTENT WITH THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, BRINGING CLARITY AND, AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, STABILITY TO THE SECTOR.

BUT WE MUST ALSO BE FORWARD LOOKING AND USE THIS DOWN TIME TO PREPARE THE AVIATION SECTOR FOR THE CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND THE IMPORTANCE AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE IN DIGITALIZATION.

THIS IS WHY THIS CONFERENCE AND ALL TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION ARE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.



THE AVIATION DAY CONFERENCE IS DIVIDED INTO THREE PANELS RELATED TO THE PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION MOTTO “TIME TO DELIVER: A FAIR, GREEN AND DIGITAL RECOVERY”

**PANEL I**, WILL DISCUSS THE RECOVERY OF THE AVIATION SECTOR DURING AND AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, DEBATING THE AVIATION SECTOR RECOVERY PERSPECTIVES IN THE SHORT AND THE LONG TERM, FOCUSING ON WHAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO A SWIFTER RECOVERY, PROMOTING MOBILITY IN THE MIDST OF THE PANDEMIC CONTROL, SUCH AS DIGITAL GREEN CERTIFICATE.

**PANEL II** EMPHASIZES THE POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AVIATION FOR A GREEN ECONOMY, THE STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS BEING DEVELOPED WITHIN THE AVIATION SECTOR IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY GOALS, ALIGNED WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND WITH THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL.

WE WILL LOOK AT THE INSIGHTS ON THE GREEN POLICIES THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED, TOUCHING UPON THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND THE WAY TO GREENER AND QUIETER AIRPORTS, AND DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF FISCAL POLICIES.

**PANEL III** WILL LOOK AT DIGITALIZATION AS A DRIVER OF AVIATION RECOVERY, ENABLING NEW STREAMLINED PROCESSES AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY, NEW POSSIBILITIES AND NEW WAYS TO INTERACT WITH CUSTOMERS AND OTHER BUSINESSES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN,

WE HOPE THIS CONFERENCE CAN PROVIDE AN OCCASION TO REFLECT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF AVIATION AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST COVID.

THE RECOVERY PROCESS WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS BY ALL STAKEHOLDERS, BUT WE MUST NOT FORGET OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE: TO MAINTAIN A COMPETITIVE MARKET WITH BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, PROVIDING



CONNECTIVITY, EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ADDED VALUE, AS WELL AS SAFE, AND SUSTAINABLE AIR SERVICES FOR PASSENGERS.

TODAY WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETHINK, RESTART AND RECONNECT - PROMOTING RESILIENCE AND A COST-EFFICIENT, FAIR, SOCIALLY BALANCED AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION SECTOR.

I WISH YOU AN EXCELLENT DAY. THANK YOU.