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Joint statement of European Social Partners in Civil Aviation

Calling for the Ratification and Implementation of ICAO Montreal Protocol 2014 (MP14)

19 September 2025

Following on our Joint Appeal in 2020¹, we, the undersigned European social partners in the civil aviation sector, reinforce our call on all EU Member States and other European countries to urgently ratify and implement the 2014 Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Montréal Protocol 2014 or MP14).

Unruly and disruptive passenger behaviour poses a persistent threat to aviation safety and the well-being of passengers, aviation workers and companies. These incidents keep leading to costly operational disruptions (delays, diversions) and profoundly impacting aviation workers' physical and mental well-being, contributing to stress and deteriorating working conditions. Despite existing international legal frameworks, incidents continue to rise, demanding practical, industry-wide solutions.

In Europe, policy dialogue and institutional concern have been delivering relevant outcomes, such as the 2022 ETF-led compendium of best practices in Europe² and the multiple campaigns by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on the topic.³

Despite these important initiatives, most EU Member States have yet to ratify MP14.

This Protocol has made it possible to deliver a disruptive passenger to authorities in the state of landing or possible diversion, for prosecution. Without this solution, an unruly passenger can only be prosecuted in the country of registration of the aircraft in question, which in practice means that most offenders can walk away without any consequences or charges.

To this date, 17 EU Member States have still **not ratified MP14**:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia

¹ 2020, *Joint Appeal from Civil Aviation social partners on "unruly passengers" to EU Member States*

² ETF, 2022, *Preventing and Managing Disruptive incidents in Civil Aviation, Compendium on best practices in Europe*, Brussels

³ For example, *Fly Right Campaign* (2023) and *Not On My Flight* (2019)

- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Sweden

To ensure uniformity and certainty, widespread ratification is urgently needed.

The failure of EU Member States to do so represents a dangerous gap in Europe's aviation safety architecture, undermining the EU's reputation as a leader in international aviation safety and workers' rights.

We therefore urge:

- all EU and other European countries to ratify and implement MP14 globally without further delay;
- the European Commission and all relevant EU institutions to promote MP14 ratification and implementation globally;
- all national and European authorities to involve social partners in the development of legal frameworks addressing unruly and disruptive passenger behaviour.

This statement is issued jointly by Members of the European Civil Aviation Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee:

Air Traffic Controllers European Unions Coordination (ATCEUC)⁴
Airlines International Representation in Europe (AIRE)
Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe)
Aviation Services Association (ASA)
European Cockpit Association (ECA)
European Network Airlines' Association (ENAA)
European Regions Airline Association (ERA)
European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)

⁴ Participating in European social dialogue under a MoU with ETF