TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

SUBJECT: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during the COVID-19 outbreak

Dear colleague,

In the light of the current circumstances of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and its unprecedented serious impact on air carriers, global supply chains and trade flows, I wish to draw your attention to the Communication adopted by the European Commission on 26 March 2020 entitled: "European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak".

Air cargo plays a vital role in the supply of goods and food. Continued and uninterrupted air cargo services are vital for the economy and for fighting COVID-19, and European and global supply chains depend on them being operated unhindered. Air cargo should therefore be able to continuously deliver critical products such as food, medical supplies and personal protective equipment, and other products which are vital for the functioning of sensitive supply chains.

To this end, and as part of the EU’s overall efforts to keep essential transport flows moving, including notably the most sensitive ones, the European Commission is requesting EU Member States to facilitate air cargo operations during the COVID-19 outbreak. The European Commission is therefore inviting EU Member States to implement the operational measures set out in the attached guidelines with the understanding that these exceptional measures will be temporary for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.

While the guidelines have been drawn up with a view to provide guidance to EU Member States, we believe that they could also be of wider interest and useful for other countries and that their wider implementation would contribute to keeping critical global supply chains open.

I therefore invite the aviation and transport authorities of non-EU partner countries worldwide to consider and implement similar guidelines and measures as well as to share with us your initiatives in this important area.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Encl.