



Groundstaff Aviation Technics
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Swiss Confederation
Federal Council
Mrs. Federal President
Simonetta Sommaruga
Bundeshaus
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Bern, 13. Mai 2020
PH/amo

Open letter to the Federal Council: A level playing field for aviation

Dear Mrs. President, *dear Simonetta*

Dear members of the Federal Council

We are grateful to see that the Federal Council takes our concern for Swiss aviation and its economic importance for thousands of employees seriously. In your reply on 7 April, 2020 to our letter of 20 March 20, 2020, you promised cushioning measures, which were later announced with the "Aviation Package". On behalf of the employees in this sector, we would like to express our sincere thanks for this commitment from parliament, administration and the public.

We, the representatives of the aviation employees, are still concerned about the following issues:

Quarantine Regulations

The diverse restrictions when travelling to Switzerland are posing a clear threat to Swiss aviation. While the recognition of Covid-19 tests in various forms is being simplified in neighboring countries, Swiss aviation is still suffering from Switzerland's rigid quarantine regulations.

As trade unions and staff associations, we do not presume to judge which measures are effective and necessary to protect passengers and employees. However, we are worried about the unequal treatment, which results in a competitive disadvantage – through formal and practical differences to other countries as well as to other forms of mobility.

We urge the Federal Council to work together with the European countries for a system that is as adequate and as uniform as possible concerning Covid-19 tests

and quarantine regulations. We also ask you to quickly ensure that tens of thousands of jobs in Switzerland are not unnecessarily endangered.

Temporary additional measures

Systemically important sectors of the economy also fear that, depending on the development of the pandemic, they will not recover in time, in spite of extended short-time working options.

The scenarios in aviation are broad. It can hardly be denied that with the decline of the epidemic, combined with innovations to reduce emissions, even in the post-corona era, aviation will remain a growth market with a growing population and ongoing development of new markets.

With the "freezing", the capacities with the employees and the existing CLA should be secured by the aid of the federal government. In our opinion, securing jobs in compliance with the CLA should be part of the terms of the loan agreement.

It is not unlikely that air traffic capacities will only reach their pre-corona level with a delay – despite the expected steady upward trend. Taking into account the general economic situation, the labor market and the aviation industry, it is important to evaluate in good time which further transitional measures are appropriate for sectors that are clearly recovering but only return to their original economic performance later due to market conditions. This is in the interest of maintaining long-term benefits for our economy and social security. For aviation, there is a need-based and impact-oriented option to further extend short-time work, especially in order to be able to retain "specifically qualified" employees for the long term.

The crisis is already having a dramatic effect on wages – despite short-time work compensation. Some were already in the precarious low-wage segment before the crisis. Loan repayments must not become a threat to the existence of numerous employees.

It is also important in the long term to examine which adaptations in cross-sector basic training (with specialization options) are to be developed so that fluctuations can be better absorbed.

On behalf of the trade unions and staff associations of Swiss aviation, we thank you for the appreciation of our concerns and are available for an exchange. We expect the implementation of these urgently required steps and look forward to your comments with great interest.

Kind regards,

SEV-GATA - Groundstaff Aviation
Technics and Administration



Philipp Hadorn

Präsident GATA: SEV Aviation /
Gewerkschaftssekretär SEV / Lei-
ter Team Cargo / Leiter Team
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