

EN
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Answer given by Ms Bulc
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.5.2019)

Commission's Aviation Strategy¹ identified tackling the limits to growth both in the air and on the ground as a key priority for achieving sustainable growth of aviation in Europe. It recognised that capacity constraints caused notably by inefficient Air Traffic Management (ATM), are impeding the European aviation sector's ability to grow sustainably, compete internationally, and are causing congestion, delays and raising costs.

The Commission adopted in June 2013 a proposal for a Regulation on the implementation of the Single European Sky (so-called "SES 2+") which aims at unblocking congestion in Europe's airspace and making ATM more efficient. This proposal remains to date with the co-legislators.

In addition, the Network Manager has proposed short-term measures² to cope with the delays caused by the lack of capacity and staff shortage in the Member States' air navigation services providers. This initiative is in line with the proposals on air traffic continuity and best practices in Commission's Communication "Aviation: Open and Connected Europe"³.

The European Parliament and the Commission also commissioned a study to analyse how the airspace architecture could be enhanced. This study⁴ was presented to the European Parliament on 5 March 2019.

Furthermore, the Commission has set up a Wise Persons Group⁵ whose role is to present recommendations on how to best offer additional ATM capacity and provide for a more resilient ATM system, while continuing to ensure safety and security. The Group presented their report⁶ to the European Commission on 15 April 2019, which will form, together with the airspace architecture study, the main input for updating SES2+ proposal or re-launching a new policy initiative.

¹ COM(2015) 598 final

² Eurocontrol's Network Manager measures for summer 2019:
<https://www.eurocontrol.int/sites/default/files/publication/Skyway/skyway70-c1.pdf>

³ COM(2017) 286 final

⁴ Airspace Architecture Study: <https://www.sesarju.eu/node/3253>

⁵ Wise Persons Group: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/news/2019-04-15-recommendations-on-air-traffic-management-in-europe_en

⁶ Report of the Wise Persons Group on the future of the Single European Sky:
<https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/2019-04-report-of-the-wise-persons-group-on-the-future-of-the-single-european-sky.pdf>