The Commission approved EUR 2.55 billion restructuring aid to TAP on 21 December 2021 (SA.60165 - Restructuring aid to TAP SGPS). The approval of this significant amount of public support comes with safeguards to reduce distortions of competition in the internal market, without hampering TAP’s prospects of returning to long-term viability.

The rules set out in the applicable Rescue and Restructuring Guidelines provide for structural measures such as divestment of assets or reduction of capacity or market presence, and the conditions to which the aid to TAP is subject have been applied in a number of other cases concerning restructuring aid to airlines. For instance, in the restructuring of CSA Czech Airlines (SA.30908 - CSA - Czech Airlines - Restructuring plan), LOT Polish airlines (SA.36874 - Restructuring aid for LOT Polish Airlines S.A.) and Corsair from France (SA.58463 - Restructuring aid for Corsair), the Commission also found that releases of slots held by the beneficiary were appropriate measures limiting distortions of competition.

In addition, Lufthansa Group (SA.57153 - COVID-19 - Aid to Lufthansa) and Air France (SA.59913 - COVID-19 - Recapitalisation of Air France and the Air France-KLM Holding) must make slots available to competitors pursuant to point 72 of the COVID-19 Temporary Framework.

easyJet and TAP are, respectively, among the 10 and 20 largest EU airlines. The transfer of slots to easyJet at Lisbon airport, where TAP has and will retain a significant market position, would not affect this ranking.

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