

## **Press Release**

### **BARIG welcomes decision of the German Federal Government: Voucher solution benefits customers, the travel industry and air traffic**

- Fair solution for all parties involved
- Reimbursement obligation must be temporarily suspended
- Secure future must be ensured by the EU

*Frankfurt am Main, April 3, 2020.* The Board of Airline Representatives in Germany (BARIG), the joint representation of interests of more than 100 German, European and global airlines, welcomes the decision made yesterday by the so-called "Corona-Cabinet" of the German Federal Government for a temporary suspension of the reimbursement obligation for flights canceled due to a pandemic.

"Germany is choosing a fair, reasonable and future-securing path for all parties involved," emphasizes BARIG Secretary General Michael Hoppe. "This measure can contribute significantly to preventing a European collapse of the aviation and travel industry, which seemed inconceivable until recently. Therefore, we count on the leading role of the EU to implement this fair regulation quickly and unbureaucratically for all of Europe in the interest of citizens, the economy and the affected companies."

The Corona-crisis poses an unprecedented threat to the entire aviation and travel industry. Airlines are compelled to cancel their flights virtually altogether. If the airlines had to reimburse these crisis-related cancellations in full, most of them would go out of business. Instead, the regulation advocated by the Federal Government for this highly exceptional situation provides, in the interest of all, that direct repayments be made only in cases of hardship. In all other cases, customers shall receive vouchers valid until 31 December 2021. Customers not redeeming the voucher by that date shall then receive a refund.

Michael Hoppe: "This regulation will benefit customers, the travel industry and the aviation industry. The drastic repercussions of the Corona-crisis for aviation have already been felt and would continue to have dramatic consequences for jobs, economic power, mobility, trade and the transport of goods far into the future. The entire economic cycle would be severely impaired for months, perhaps even years. Elementary steps to set the course for a recovery of the system following the end of the Corona-crisis must, therefore, now be taken through the right decision at EU-level."

**BARIG (Board of Airline Representatives in Germany e. V.)** represents the interests of more than 100 national and international airlines in scheduled, charter, low cost and air cargo business. Since the foundation in 1951 the airline association works for the improvement of frame conditions in the aviation industry in Germany and is the key industry contact for politics, authorities, industry and media. Worldwide the BARIG member airlines transport around 1.8 billion passengers and more than 25 million tons of air cargo to over 1,500 destinations. Every year approximately 225 million passengers are travelling to and from Germany with BARIG airlines to more than 280 international destinations. The BARIG airlines have over 105,000 employees in Germany. The overall aviation industry secures 823,000 workplaces and therefore is a major factor of the German economy. [www.BARIG.aero](http://www.BARIG.aero), <https://de.linkedin.com/company/barig>

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