



Press Release

An Appeal to European and National Governments: More than Ten Boards of Airline Representatives Call for a Cross-border Digital Solution to Track COVID-19

- Global challenges such as a pandemic can only be solved through a coordinated effort across country borders
- The international political will is imperative to the urgently needed development of a viable, high-performance passenger data platform that enables key data sharing and analytics, and a more consistent passenger experience
- Secure, trusted, and efficient digital borders are a crucial measure towards re-opening international travel and the recovery of the global economy

Frankfurt, September 16, 2020. The representatives of more than ten national airline associations (Boards of Airline Representatives, BARs) are urging governments to collaborate without further delay on developing and implementing an international digital border solution for air travelers. Their pressing appeal is addressed to the respective governments, as well as to the European Commission and the current German EU Council Presidency. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that such a transnational, digital solution is required as an efficient and non-bureaucratic tool contributing to public health, as emphasized by the BARs. By facilitating the rapid tracing of potential chains of infection, it can support the responsible national authorities in taking appropriate and prompt action.

A harmonized, electronic solution is considerably superior to the current, mainly manual, procedures in individual countries. The first promising solutions are already in place, for example in Spain, the United Kingdom and Greece. However, what is now urgently required is a coordinating political effort to ensure a high-performance digital platform that transcends national borders and achieves a more consistent passenger experience.

“In order to meet the current challenges posed by COVID-19, cooperation between states is imperative. Unfortunately, travelling public are currently still experiencing cumbersome manual and uncoordinated processes. Therefore, the international community has to develop a concerted strategy, as we cannot face this global crisis single-handedly without coordination across national borders,” explains Michael Hoppe, Secretary General BARIG. “Localized, national procedures are highly inefficient and particularly lack transparency. A standardized, digital solution is, accordingly, the way to go.”

The representatives of the BARs operating in Europe – including the executives from, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, and the UK – are calling for a harmonized approach in other areas as well. Thus, in addition to the urgently needed digital solution, they are jointly campaigning for:

- The joint travel impact assessment of the COVID-19 situation within the EU and globally by the respective ministries of the states and superordinate institutions, such as the European Commission, as well as coordinated action on that basis.

- The coordinated implementation of the 'Take-Off Guidance' Aviation Health Safety protocol developed by ICAO, EASA and ECDC.
- Clear and unambiguous information for passengers on possible measures, always in consultation with the travel industry.

"We strongly appeal to national governments and the EU to support the introduction of an international digital solution. Only by doing so can border restrictions be removed in the interest of both the people and companies. The scope of this issue must not be underestimated, as the reconstruction of air traffic is crucial for economic recovery in Europe and the world. From the international movement of goods, to visiting family and relatives, to business and vacation travel - air transport connects people and countries and benefits society as a whole," says Hoppe. "Furthermore, we are committed to implementing the "Take-Off Guidance" protocol to ensure health protection in aviation. In this way, the currently uncoordinated individual measures and various disproportionate travel restrictions can be eliminated."

For further current BARIG topics and other aviation news visit <https://www.bariq.aero/en/news>.

Involved Boards of Airline Representatives:



B.A.R. - BELGIUM



Board of Airline Representatives in Denmark



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, <https://de.linkedin.com/company/barig>

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