Press release

BARIG calls for the immediate removal of blanket quarantine regulations in air traffic

- These preventive measures are utterly disproportionate and hardly contribute to managing and containing the pandemic in general
- Governments should urgently seize and implement the current recommendations of the EU agencies ECDC and EASA
- Rapid tests and safe travel corridors must replace unnecessary blanket travel restrictions

Frankfurt am Main, December 08, 2020. The Board of Airline Representatives in Germany (BARIG), the association of international and German airlines operating in Germany, supports the demands of numerous international associations and companies for an immediate termination of the current blanket quarantine regulations in air traffic. In this respect, BARIG refers to the most recent research results of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), among others, both of which are agencies of the European Union. In their latest guidelines on COVID-19 testing and quarantine regulations for air passengers, ECDC and EASA consider the countries' quarantine regulations to be ineffective and inappropriate within the current epidemiological situation. Instead, both agencies explicitly confirm that air passengers account for less than 1 percent of COVID-19 cases worldwide, indicating that they do not constitute a contributory factor to increased infection rates. Accordingly, quarantine measures for incoming passengers are only appropriate in rare cases.

Michael Hoppe, BARIG Secretary General: "With the ongoing pandemic we are in a very exceptional situation. Now it is imperative to stay on top of things and to consult independent experts such as the specialists from ECDC and EASA, incorporate their insights and also implement their recommendations promptly and effectively. The current general quarantine regulations in air traffic are mere political actionism, not useful in managing the pandemic. The blanket quarantine regulations must, therefore, be eliminated with immediate effect."

The BARIG Secretary General calls for appropriate, joint action by the governments of the EU countries, the European Economic Area, and the United Kingdom. Instead of generalized, precautionary blanket quarantine regulations in combination with broad and rigorous travel restrictions, BARIG is proposing the establishment of safe travel corridors, for example between Germany and North America, as well as enhanced rapid test procedures at airports. Targeted proposals and encouraging first experiences have already been made for both of those measures; likewise, the necessary and important test infrastructure is still in place at many airports.

Further current BARIG topics and news on aviation are available at
https://www.barig.aero/en/news.

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*

BARIG / Board of Airline Representatives in Germany e.V.
Frankfurt Airport Center 1 (HBK 27), Hugo-Eckener-Ring, 60549 Frankfurt am Main, Germany,
barig@barig.aero, www.barig.aero

Pressekontakt:
Claasen Communication GmbH, Im Schelmböhl 40, 64665 Alsbach
Telefon 06257 / 68781, barig@claasen.de, www.claasen.de