

## February 2024 Summary Report

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### **Executive Summary**

- IMCO Committee MEPs adopted their position on the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proposal. MEPs want to make it mandatory for airline carriers to participate in ADR.
- IATA Director General Willie Walsh discussed the industry's progress and recovery in 2023, highlighting its strong performance in domestic markets and international markets.
- A JHA Council progress report mentions that the co-legislators are currently engaged in trilogue negotiations on the API proposals that are expected to conclude in agreement on a compromise by the beginning of March 2024.
- The adopted report by the IMCO and ENVI Committees on the green claims was published.
- The European Parliament and the Council have reached a provisional agreement on the revision of the Schengen Borders Code.
- 73 industry leaders spanning almost 20 industrial sectors presented "The Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal".
- The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has issued on 14 February a 'Call to Action', urging EU stakeholders to support the tourism sector.
- European renewable ethanol producers have launched a legal challenge against the EU's RefuelEU Aviation Regulation.

### **Commercial Aviation**

**IATA partners with The Weather Company:** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has teamed up with The Weather Company to provide enhanced turbulence-related weather data to airlines.

**EU Travel Tech advises new approach for EU airline merger remedies:** EU Travel Tech argued in an opinion piece that the European airline market is experiencing a wave of mergers, with major carriers like TAP Air Portugal and SAS likely to be acquired by large airline groups.

**IMCO adopts opinion on ADR, wants to make it mandatory for airlines:** IMCO Committee MEPs adopted their position on the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proposal, which allows consumers to submit complaints against traders to entities offering independent, fast and affordable redress for consumers. Given the high number of air passenger rights complaints, MEPs want to make it mandatory for airline carriers to participate in ADR.

**Commission to give an official warning for Lufthansa-ITA Airways deal:** Bloomberg reports that the European Commission is planning on issuing a statement of objections listing certain risks arising from Lufthansa's investment in ITA Airways. The formal warning could arrive before the Easter break in late March. The Commission has until June 6 to reach a final decision in its review.

**IATA Director shares positive outlook for the aviation industry amid challenges:** During the 2024 Changi Aviation Summit Singapore, IATA Director General Willie Walsh discussed the industry's progress and recovery in 2023, highlighting its strong performance in domestic markets and international markets.

**LEAKED: List of files the EP is expected to finalise before the end of the mandate:** DeHavilland EU has seen a European Parliament document with the table of files at the first and second reading on which agreement is reached/expected before the end of the term. On transport, the files are: SMEI - plenary in April (TBC); CS3D - fully finalised in April I plenary; Single European Sky – agreement by March and plenary in April II (TBC); TEN-T guidelines – fully finalised in April II plenary; Ecodesign - fully finalised in April II plenary; Net Zero Industry Act - fully finalised in April II plenary.

**DA on multimodal travel information services published in OJEU:** The Commission delegated act of 29 November 2023 with regard to the provision of EU-wide multimodal travel information services [was published](#) in the Official Journal of the EU.

**Commission approves the acquisition of Asiana by Korean Air:** The European Commission [has approved](#) the proposed acquisition of Asiana Airlines by Korean Air. The approval is conditional upon full compliance with the remedies offered by Korean Air.

**Parliamentary question on passenger and pilot safety with a single pilot in the cockpit:** MEP Kosma Złotowski (ECR, Poland) [has requested](#) a written answer from the European Commission on his parliamentary question regarding the safety of having only one pilot in the cockpit during commercial flights.

**EU Commission applauds JetBlue's continued operations at Amsterdam Airport:** The European Commission has [expressed](#) satisfaction with developments at Amsterdam airport, allowing JetBlue Airways Corporation to continue operations during the IATA Summer 2024 Season.

**Commission opens state aid investigation into Corsair's amended restructuring plan:** The European Commission [has opened](#) an in-depth investigation to determine whether France's contemplated amendments to Corsair's restructuring plan are in line with EU state aid rules.

**REGI study suggests high-speed rail as an alternative to short-haul flights:** The REGI Committee [published](#) a study on regional connectivity through an adequate transport infrastructure.

**ECAC prepared for the 13th ICAO Facilitation Panel meeting:** The second meeting of the European Coordination Group on Facilitation [placed](#) a focus on the upcoming ICAO Facilitation Panel scheduled in Montreal from 26 February to 1 March 2024.

**EASA consultation on innovative air mobility with manned VTOL-capable aircraft:** The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) [has launched](#) the public consultation of Notice of Proposed Amendment (NPA) to proactively support aviation stakeholders in the efficient and proportionate implementation of the regulatory framework for innovative air mobility (IAM) with manned vertical take-off and landing (VTOL)-capable aircraft (VCA).

**EU court annulled state aid approval to KLM:** The General Court of the EU [annulled](#) the approval of State aid from the Netherlands amounting to €3.4 billion in favour of KLM.

**Air travel demand continues to recover, but green transition remains a key priority:** The latest data gathered by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) [shows](#) that global air travel demand has continued its recovery in 2023. In the meantime, **ACI Europe** [published](#) its own passenger statistics noting that passenger traffic across the European airport network in 2023 surged by +19%, bringing the total volume to just -5.4% below pre-pandemic levels.

**ICAO's ICAN event yields 521 new air service agreements:** The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) [announces](#) a significant achievement with 521 new international air service agreements resulting from its recent Air Services Negotiation (ICAN) event.

**Eurostat records slight downward trend in commercial flights in 2023:** According to the latest Eurostat data, the EU [recorded](#) 6.3 million commercial flights in 2023, down from 7.0 million in 2019.

**IATA revises cargo and ground handling manuals:** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has [revised](#) its industry manuals for cargo and ground handling operations, incorporating updated standards and changes to industry standards.

**Associations call the EU to carefully review airline mergers:** EU travel tech, BEUC, EPF and ACI [called](#) on the European Commission to carefully and critically review the ongoing European airline merger wave. The associations say that the "wave of airline consolidation could drastically limit competition on thousands of connections, thus giving more leeway to market dominant players to develop and abuse their positions".

## **Aviation Safety, Security & Slots**

**ECAC Security Forum focuses on new work programme and cyber security proposals:** The European Civil Aviation Conference's (ECAC) Security Forum [gathered](#) in Paris to refine strategic direction and work methods for 2024.

**EASA and IATA partner to combat spoofing and jamming incidents:** The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) [have partnered](#) to combat incidents of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing and jamming.

**New report on ATM transformation in the EU:** The Florence School of Regulation [published a report](#) on ATM transformation flagships, following up from several workshops held with the Performance Review Commission (PRC).

**API trilogues to be finalised in March 2024:** A JHA Council progress report [mentions](#) that the co-legislators are currently engaged in trilogue negotiations on the API proposals that are expected to conclude in agreement on a compromise by the beginning of March 2024.

**IATA reports 2023 as safest year for aviation:** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has [released](#) on 28 February its 2023 Annual Safety Report, indicating significant advancements in aviation safety.

**Single Sky Committee agenda:** The ad hoc Single Sky Committee [will meet](#) on 15 March to discuss SESAR, the Commission Implementing Decision on Initial Flight Trajectory Information Sharing in Common Project One and the Performance and Charging Scheme.

## **Environmental Affairs**

**Consolidated report on green claims:** The adopted report by the IMCO and ENVI Committees on the green claims [was published](#).

**Ethanol producers take legal action against ReFuelEU Aviation:** European renewable ethanol producers [have launched](#) a legal challenge against the EU's RefuelEU Aviation Regulation, charging that it improperly excludes crop-based biofuels from the effort to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from air transport.

**Provisional agreement on air quality:** The Council and the Parliament [reached](#) a provisional political agreement on ambient air quality. The Council and the ENVI Committee will have to adopt the provisional agreement.

**Council approves empowering consumers file:** The Council [approved](#) the position of the European Parliament the directive on empowering consumers for the green transition. After the signature by the president of the European Parliament and the president of the Council, the directive will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication.

**ICAO Secretary-General advocates sustainable aviation policy:** In a panel discussion on aviation and emissions at the World Governments Summit in Dubai from 12 to 14 February, ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar [highlighted](#) the importance of governments supporting policies and investments to achieve net zero emissions.

**Sustainable Aviation WG to discuss labelling and ReFuelEU Aviation:** The Commission Expert Group on Sustainable Aviation [will meet](#) on 26-27 February. It will discuss the mandate of the Group, the list of in-scope stakeholders in ReFuelEU Aviation, environmental Labelling, the guidelines on exemptions to refuelling obligations and updates on other ongoing work under ReFuelEU Aviation.

**Hydrogen Europe conclusions on zero-emission mobility:** Hydrogen Europe published its [latest report](#): 'Long-term outlook on zero-emission mobility', providing analyses and projections on the development of European zero-emission mobility from now until 2050.

**Commission reveals recommendation for 2040 emissions reduction target:** The European Commission [published](#) its recommendation related to the 2040 emissions reduction target. The

Commission recommends a 90% net greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2040 compared to 1990 levels. A legislative Proposal will be issued by the next Commission.

**Provisional agreement on the Net Zero Industry Act:** The Council and the European Parliament [reached](#) a provisional deal on the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA), aiming at boosting the industrial deployment of net-zero technologies needed to achieve the EU's climate goals.

**Advancing towards a world-leading sustainable aviation fuel industry in Europe:** On 8 February the European aviation industry [celebrated](#) the inclusion of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) as a strategic decarbonisation technology in the EU's Net Zero Industry Act.

**Summary of Climate Change Committee meeting:** The summary record of the meeting of 7 December 2023 of the Climate Change Committee was [published](#). The meeting focused on a draft implementing Regulation on the list of States that are considered to be applying ICAO's CORSIA scheme and transnational routes under public service obligation or contract.

**EBAA and GAMA initiative to boost SAF at business aviation:** The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) and the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) [announced](#) a joint initiative aimed at significantly boosting the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) within the European Business Aviation sector.

**Qair and Airbus partner to advance sustainable aviation fuels in Occitanie, France:** Renewable energy company Qair and aerospace leader Airbus have [signed](#) a memorandum of understanding to collaborate on the sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) sector in the French Occitanie region.

**Spanish Ministry of Transport reaffirms commitment to green hydrogen deployment:** The Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility has committed to the deployment of green hydrogen in the airline sector as a strategic pillar for decarbonisation. The Spanish Ministry of Transport and Sustainable Mobility has hosted the first General Assembly of the Alliance for Green Hydrogen in Aviation (AH2A).

**New aviation study highlights the high costs and low impact of tax on aviation fuel:** A4E and ERA have commissioned a study by the global economic consultancy Steer to quantify the economic impact of an intra-EU tax on aviation fuel with a prime focus on some Italian regions.

**List of states considered to be applying CORSIA for 2023 emissions:** The European Commission [published](#) an implementing regulation on the list of States which are considered to be applying CORSIA for the purposes of Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council for emissions in 2023.

### **Corporate Affairs**

**Industry leaders signed "Antwerp Declaration For A European Industrial Deal":** 73 industry leaders spanning almost 20 industrial sectors [presented](#) "The [Antwerp Declaration](#) for a European Industrial Deal" to Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

**NZIA provisional deal adopted at ITRE Committee:** The provisional deal on the Net Zero Industry Act was [adopted](#) at the ITRE Committee with 49 votes in favour, 10 votes against and zero abstentions.

**EPP announced Ursula von der Leyen as the sole candidate for lead candidate:** The EPP [announced](#) that the period for submission of candidacies for the European People's Party lead candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission ended on 21 February at 12 pm CET. The nomination received will be reviewed by the EPP Political Assembly on 5 March 2024 and will, after validation, be submitted to a vote at the Party Congress in Bucharest on 7 March 2024.

**Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report published – Key takeaways:** The European Commission [published](#) its new Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report for 2024, identifying the competitive strengths and challenges of the Single Market, focusing on nine drivers

including access to private capital, public investment and infrastructure, research and innovation, energy, circularity, digitalisation, education and skills. It also published a [staff working document](#) providing an overview of the KPIs on long-term competitiveness.

**Business Europe study shows the urgency of reforming EU permitting:** A survey by Business Europe [has revealed](#) that 83% of companies across 21 European countries find the complexity and duration of EU industrial permitting processes an obstacle to investing in Europe.

**Greens published its manifesto for European elections:** The Greens/EFA group [published](#) its manifesto for the upcoming EU elections. The manifesto is divided into three chapters which refer to green and social Europe, democracy and human rights, and security and peace.

## Tourism

**WTTC calls on the EU to boost support in the tourism sector:** The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) [has issued](#) on 14 February a 'Call to Action', urging EU stakeholders to support the tourism sector.

**European tourism trends and recovery in 2023:** The European Travel Commission (ETC) [reports](#) that European tourism has almost reached pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, with foreign tourist arrivals just 1.6% below 2019 figures.

**Provisional Agreement on Schengen Borders Code:** The European Parliament and the Council [have reached](#) a provisional agreement on the revision of the Schengen Borders Code. The provisional agreement needs to be formally adopted by the Parliament and Council before it can enter into law.

**Passenger air traffic is on the rise again post-covid:** The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) [predicts](#) that passenger air traffic levels will be around 2% higher than in 2019, with airlines expected to maintain their operating profitability in 2023.

**International travellers to Europe put first safety and affordability:** International travellers to Europe [prioritise](#) safe destinations and affordable prices in 2024, according to the latest Long-Haul Travel Barometer (LHTB) by the European Travel Commission (ETC) and Eurail BV.

**Global business travel industry faces challenging 2024 ahead:** The global business travel industry is [expected](#) to experience a strong but challenging 2024, according to the latest Business Travel Outlook Poll conducted by the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA).

**Report assessing progress with the transition pathway for tourism:** The Commission has published a [report](#) on its first assessment of the transition pathway for tourism.

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## Legislation Tracker

File	Stage
<b><u>Ongoing Legislation</u></b>	
<a href="#">Capacity of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency to act as Performance Review Body of the Single European Sky</a>	<b>Trilogues and technical meetings ongoing</b>
<a href="#">Single European Sky revision</a>	<b>Trilogues and technical meetings ongoing</b>
<a href="#">Revision of TEN-T Guidelines</a>	<b>Parliament adopted resolution Commission evaluated guidelines TRAN adopted report Informal agreement found</b>
<a href="#">Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism</a>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal agreement found</li> <li>• ENVI adopted agreement</li> <li>• Plenary adopted file</li> <li>• Council adoption</li> <li>• <a href="#">Published</a> in Official Journal</li> <li>• Transitional phase started 1 October</li> </ul>
<u>ReFuelEU Aviation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITRE adopted opinion on 20 April</li> <li>• ENVI adopted opinion on 28 April</li> <li>• TRAN adopted opinion</li> <li>• Plenary vote: Parliament adopted position</li> <li>• Agreement reached</li> <li>• Committee adopted agreement</li> <li>• COREPER adoption</li> <li>• Plenary adopted text</li> <li>• Regulation <a href="#">published</a> in OJEU</li> </ul>
<u>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENVI published opinion</li> <li>• Council adopted general approach</li> <li>• Parliament adopted report</li> <li>• Agreement found</li> <li>• Council adopted regulation</li> <li>• Regulation <a href="#">published</a> in OJEU</li> </ul>
<u>CountEmissionsEU</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing</li> </ul>
<b><u>Upcoming Initiatives</u></b>	
N/A	
<b><u>Consultations</u></b>	
<u>Travel - better protection for passengers and their rights</u>	<b>Closing 13 March</b>
<u>Rules for reporting CORSIA-eligible fuels and CORSIA units cancellation reports under the ETS Directive</u>	<b>Upcoming</b>
<u>Aviation – EU-wide performance targets for 2025-2029 (Single European Sky)</u>	<b>Upcoming</b>
<u>Carbon Offsetting &amp; Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) – rules for calculating offsetting requirements</u>	<b>Upcoming Q2 2024</b>
<u>Aviation fuels &amp; emissions trading – calculating the price difference between eligible fuels and kerosene (detailed rules)</u>	<b>Upcoming Q3 2024</b>
<u>Aviation emissions - accounting for the use of zero-rated fuels for aviation (updated rules)</u>	<b>Upcoming Q2 2024</b>
<u>State aid in the aviation sector – Commission guidelines on airports and airlines (revision)</u>	<b>Upcoming Q3 2024</b>
<u>Revision of the Air Services Regulation</u>	<b>TBC</b>

## Key Dates

- **04/03:** TRAN Committee meeting [more details](#)
- **04/03:** CoR - High-Level Workshop on Synergies between European and national/regional research & innovation programmes in the aviation sector
- **05/03:** IATA Cocktail Reception at ITB [more details](#)

- **06-07/03:** EASA - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Aviation Workshop [more details](#)
- **06-07/03:** EPP [Congress](#) in Bucharest, Romania
- **12/03:** ACI EUROPE Webinar - Environmental Modulation of Airport Charges [more details](#)
- **11-14/03:** European Parliament Plenary [more details](#)
- **12-14/03:** IATA: World Cargo Symposium [more details](#)
- **13-14/03:** ERA Regional Airline Conference [more details](#)
- **15/03:** Single Sky Committee [more details](#)
- **19-21/03:** Airspace World - CANSO Executive Summit 2024 [more details](#)
- **19/03:** Euractiv - Fueling Change - Biodiesel and the future of sustainable transport in the EU
- **19/03:** ALDE The Alliance Of Her 2024 Gala [Reception](#) in Brussels, Belgium
- **20/03:** "Renew Europe Now" electoral platform Campaign [Kick-off](#) in Brussels, Belgium
- **20-21/03:** ALDE Party Extraordinary [Congress](#) in Brussels, Belgium
- **20-21/03:** CINEA - Second International Conference on Air Pollution - 20th - 21st March 2024 [more details](#)