



Policy Brief Special

TURNING THE TIDE FOR EUROPEAN AVIATION



Enabling European connectivity and integration

The establishment of a strong European aviation industry must become a priority for European policy makers to uphold European economic competitiveness and strategic autonomy.

From the early days of the world's first passenger airline service to the sophisticated travel networks of today, aviation was boosting freedom and European integration. Connecting people, cultures, and economies across Europe and beyond: Aviation reflects the essence of European values and is contributing significantly to the integration and cohesion of EU Member States.

EU aviation under pressure

European aviation has propelled economic growth through increased trade and tourism. Beyond that, even in times of crisis, European airlines uphold global supply chains, repatriate stranded EU citizens, and provide rapid transportation of essential supplies, such as medical goods. The societal and economic value of aviation to European independence and sovereignty is undeniable. Now, this value is at risk: European aviation is critically threatened by increasing costs imposed by EU regulation and competitive advantages of non-EU carriers. The result is a distorted level playing field.

Turning the tide

It is high time for European policy makers to turn this tide. Europe needs a strong aviation industry to contribute to its climate transformation and strategic autonomy. A thorough

review of the European Green Deal and especially RefuelEU Aviation is therefore essential, focusing on bolstering and safeguarding the European economy. We need a true European industrial policy, that restores European competitiveness and eases the one-sided costs imposed on European network airlines. This must become the priority during the next legislative term.

Key priorities

- **Promote global competitiveness**
Review the European Green Deal to strengthen Europe's economy
- **Drive both sustainability & competitiveness**
Introduce a European Climate Fee for non-EU and EU carriers to finance SAF
- **Safeguard the EU's strategic autonomy**
Facilitate airline consolidation and foster European interests globally