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BusinessEurope comment on the plenary vote on ETS aviation

On 9 June, the European Parliament will vote on its position with regards to the reform of the ETS, including on the ETS for the aviation sector. Unfortunately, the position coming out of the ENVI committee contains a change in scope compared to the Commission proposal – now, in addition to intra-EU/EEA flights, flights leaving the EEA would also be covered under the ETS. Such a decision would endanger the success of negotiations on a long-term global aspirational goal for international aviation (LTAG) and strengthening CORSIA, which will continue at the ICAO Assembly starting in September 2022. Taking unilateral actions such as the ones proposed in the ENVI position will preclude those negotiations and risk retaliation from other international partners, similar to the first attempt at instituting ETS for aviation on a global level in 2011. Another round of deadlock must be prevented – therefore we call on the members of the European parliament to maintain the scope of the aviation ETS (intra-EU flights only) and to push for a better global agreement at the ICAO assembly in autumn.

This decision would also put European airlines and airports at a distinct disadvantage vis-à-vis their competitors from around the world, as non-EU airlines would not have to bear the same carbon costs. This would lead to significant carbon leakage, the shifting of international connections hubs out of Europe, as well as a serious loss of competitiveness for European business and tourism destinations.

BusinessEurope calls on MEPs to reject this extension of geographical scope in the plenary vote on 9 June.