



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate E – Aviation
The Director

Brussels
MOVE.DDG2.E

Dear petitioners,

Thank you for your messages addressed to President von der Leyen expressing concerns regarding your flight delay.

This summer was indeed particularly problematic in Europe when it comes to such delays, caused by a combination of factors, as described in this press communication by the Eurocontrol Network Manager: [Summer 2024 – Overview of Network performance | EUROCONTROL](#).

Clearly, a considerable amount of these delays can be attributed to the numerous and severe adverse weather events this summer, with the weather-related Air Traffic Management delay per flight being 41% more than in 2023. Extreme weather events are often of a cross-border nature and likely to become more frequent over time. Therefore, all relevant actors will need to contribute to improve the ability to address their impact at the level of the overall Air Traffic Management network. However, weather events are not the only cause of delays and cancellations. The post-summer assessment points also to continued shortages of capacity in a number of EU Member States that need to be addressed; as well as to the need for airlines to respect better the flight planning they have submitted.

All involved parties including airlines, airports and air navigation service providers, together with the Network Manager and the EU Member States, need to draw lessons from the summer 2024 assessment and take actions to address the underlying causes. In the mandate of the future Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, the President of the European Commission stressed the need to engage in a comprehensive dialogue to address inefficiencies in air traffic management within the Single European Sky and propose action to tackle the areas where barriers still persist.

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