

## PRESS STATEMENT

### **EBAA reaffirms importance of business aviation, calls for inclusive European Aviation Framework**

*Bucharest, 12 April 2019. European business aviation calls for an inclusive European Aviation Framework to enable improved connectivity, efficiency, European competitiveness and regional cohesion across the continent.*

Global passenger traffic is expected to double by 2037 and accommodating this fascinating growth is a major challenge for the European air transport industry and governments. It will require new standards, technologies, harmonised regulations and adequate infrastructure.

On the occasion of Romania's European Council Presidency, aviation regulators and industry experts met to discuss key topics for the air transport industry in the region.

Speaking at today's [Aviation Day conference](#) in Bucharest, **EBAA Secretary-General, Athar Husain Khan** said; *"Business aviation can make an even more significant contribution to local communities and economies because we fly where others don't. As such we need to ensure that the European Aviation framework is inclusive, taking into account the specific needs and challenges of our sector"*.

For instance, since the start of the Romanian European Council Presidency in January, business aviation traffic in Romania has increased by 25% compared to the same period in 2018 (Source: [2019 EBAA Yearbook](#)). This demonstrates the ever-pressing need for the closely tailored, flexible, point-to-point air transportation for governments, businesses and local communities in the most time-efficient way possible that business aviation provides.

But business aviation is not just a time machine. New technologies such as electrification, VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing), blockchain, artificial intelligence, and alternative fuels are igniting the pace of innovation in aviation. And nowhere is it more prevalent than business aviation – the industry that sets the bar for air travel. These much-needed improvements and technological advances will only be made possible if the EU is able to provide the adequate infrastructure for business aviation operators in Europe. In particular, access to airports and airspace which remain major hurdles for our sector.

Just last week, despite record delays as well as industry calls for urgent EU airspace reform, EU Member States [approved](#) the weakest performance targets ever for Europe's air traffic control providers by agreeing to extend the threshold for delays. These new targets will not incentivise the performance improvements the European airspace network desperately needs, nor will they support the delivery of the Single European Sky benefits.

A recent European Commission report comparing air traffic management in the U.S. versus Europe found that in 2017, despite the U.S. controlling nearly 50% more flights (15.3m in the U.S. vs 10.4m in Europe) — *"the total number of flights with reportable delay was 387,000 in Europe vs. 258,000 in the U.S. This means that 50% more flights are delayed in Europe than in the U.S."*, due to Europe's fragmented system.

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**About EBAA:** The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) is the leading organisation for operators of business aircrafts in Europe. Our mission is to enable responsible, sustainable growth for business aviation, enhance connectivity and create opportunities. EBAA works to improve safety standards and share knowledge, to further positive regulation, and to ease all aspects of closely tailored, flexible, point to point air transportation for individuals, governments, businesses and local communities in the most time-efficient way possible.

Founded in 1977 and based in Brussels, EBAA represents more than 715 member companies, corporate operators, commercial operators, manufacturers, airports, fixed-base operators, and more, with a total fleet of more than 1,000 aircrafts. We provide more than 50 products and services to the business aviation community, including the European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE), Europe's largest business aviation trade show.

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