

EBAA Press Release

EBAA welcomes plenary agreement on ReFuelEU, urges for inclusion of Book & Claim

Brussels, 13 September 2023. **The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) welcomes the final agreement on RefuelEU 2021/0205, voted today in the European Parliament plenary. The agreement marks the first-ever Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) mandate in the EU, but noticeably lacks a Book & Claim system.**

The European Business aviation industry has been committed to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 as laid out in the Business Aviation Commitment on Climate Change (BACCC) of 2009. The use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) forms a crucial element towards reaching the climate targets set out in the commitment and the industry has since championed the more sustainable use of fuels. Therefore, EBAA warmly welcomes the approval of the European Parliament on the initiative, setting out a roadmap towards increased SAF uptake across the board in the EU.

To ensure a level playing field between aerospace users, and to help overcome logistical and geographical constraints, EBAA has advocated throughout the negotiations for the inclusion of a Book & Claim system based on the SAF flexibility mechanism. EBAA's position has remained unchanged due to the limited development of SAF infrastructure, the connectivity of smaller airports, and the geographical spread of SAF across Europe.

A Book & Claim system can:

- Allow operators to purchase SAF even if it is not available at their refuelling location.
- Provide customers with a means of supporting aviation decarbonisation.
- Attract financing into the SAF system that might not otherwise be available.
- Support the virtuous cycle of increasing SAF availability and demand.

Regrettably, the final agreement does not include such a system. Also, an included threshold for 'Union airports' at 800,000 passengers/year poses serious challenges for Business aviation, particularly with limited SAF availability at small airports. EBAA is concerned that due to these elements, Business aviation operators will face considerable challenges to meet decarbonisation objectives.

Thus, EBAA urges European legislators to reconsider the critical importance of the SAF flexibility mechanism in future revisions of the legislation and agree on a common set of criteria to make such a mechanism a standard across the Union.

While we understand the challenges of increased SAF and synthetic fuel use, we call for a ramp-up of SAF production and propose that the revenues generated by the already agreed Emissions Trading System (ETS) for aviation should be earmarked to help manufacturers develop hybrid, electric, and hydrogen-powered engines.

After the European Parliament's approval, the Member States will also formally endorse the regulation, before it is published in the EU's official journal and enters into force.

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About EBAA: The European Business Aviation Association (EBAA) is the leading organisation for operators of business aircraft 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 +700 members companies, corporate operators, commercial operators, manufacturers, airports, fixed-based operators, and more, with a total fleet of +1,000 aircraft.

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