



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Informal agreement on aviation in the European emissions trading scheme

The Permanent Representatives Committee¹ today approved a compromise text provisionally agreed between the Hellenic Presidency of the Council and the European Parliament on a draft regulation amending the EU Emissions trading scheme directive (2003/87/EC), in view of the implementation by 2020 of an international agreement applying a single global market-based measure to international aviation emissions. It thereby endorsed the agreement reached between the Presidency of the Council and representatives of the European Parliament on 4 March.

"This issue was a top priority for the Hellenic Presidency, I am very happy that we could successfully agree on it today" said the president of the Council, Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change Yannis Maniatis.

As the aviation sector has a strong international character, a global approach to addressing emissions from aviation offers the best prospects of ensuring sustainability in the long term. In line with the outcome of the 38th International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Assembly held in September 2013, there should be a single global market-based measure applying to international aviation emissions from 2020 onwards. The new regulation is intended to maintain the momentum reached within the ICAO and to facilitate progress at the upcoming 39th session in 2016.

¹ The Permanent Representatives Committee is composed of the ambassadors of the 28 EU member states. Its role is to prepare decisions of the Council.

P R E S S

For this reason the new regulation stipulates that the EU ETS directive will apply within the European Economic Area (EEA) until 2016. A review is to take place immediately after the ICAO Assembly in 2016, in order to assess the ICAO's outcome and permit the EU's response to it. The Commission is to provide a full report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the next steps, including on possible proposals for adjusting the scope of application of the directive beyond the EEA.

The outermost regions are to be excluded from the agreed intra-EEA scope. The regulation will apply from the date of its adoption.

Background

The current scheme, established by the decision adopted in March 2013, temporarily deferring enforcement of the obligations of aircraft operators in respect of incoming and outgoing international flights under the EU emissions trading system for 2012, expires in April. It temporarily exempts airlines from the ETS requirement to report carbon emissions for flights between EU airports and third countries, and sanctions will not be imposed for failure to report.

Next steps

The agreement paves the way for the formal adoption of the new regulation. The text still needs to be formally adopted by the Parliament, whose vote in plenary is expected to take place on 3 April 2014, and by the Council, which is due to take its decision after the vote in Parliament.
