EASA
European Union Aviation Safety Agency

COVID-19 related activities

CAPSCA EUR-MID/9

07.12.2021

Dr. Med. Cristian Panait -EASA Medical Expert

Your health safety is our mission

An Agency of the European Union

Guidelines development

Article 91 – *"EASA shall, within its field of competence, contribute to a timely response to and mitigation of aviation crises, in coordination, with other appropriate stakeholders"*

Participation in specialised bodies

- ICAO CAPSCA
- MEG

Crisis planning and management

- EACCC
- EC response to PHEs
- EU Healthy Gateways

Institutional relations

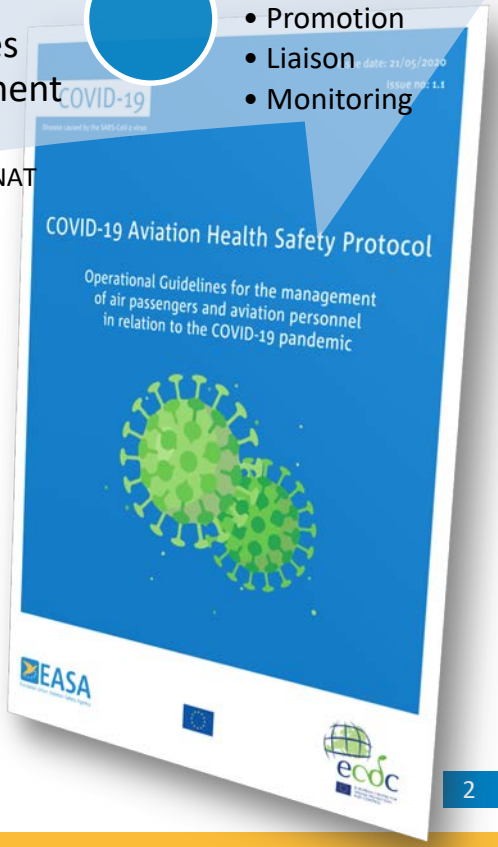
- EASA visit to DG SANTE
- DG SANTE visit to MAB
- Health Security Committee
- Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR)

Guidelines development

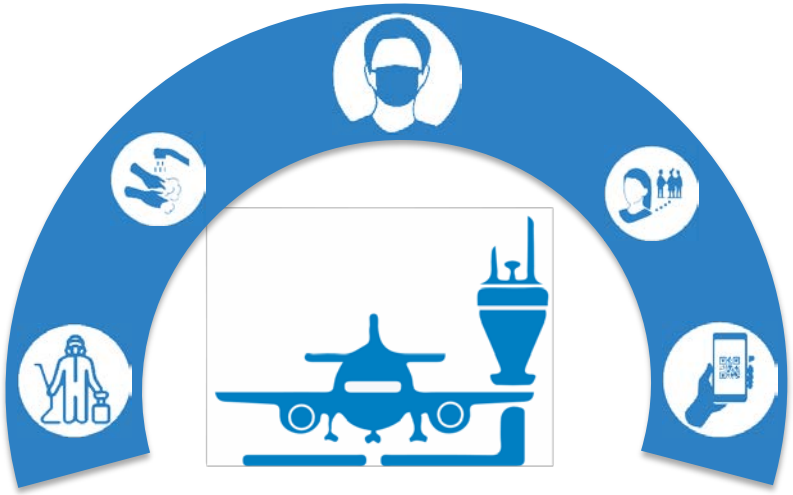
- ECDC
- ICAO EUR/NAT
- MAB & SAB
- MEG

Publication

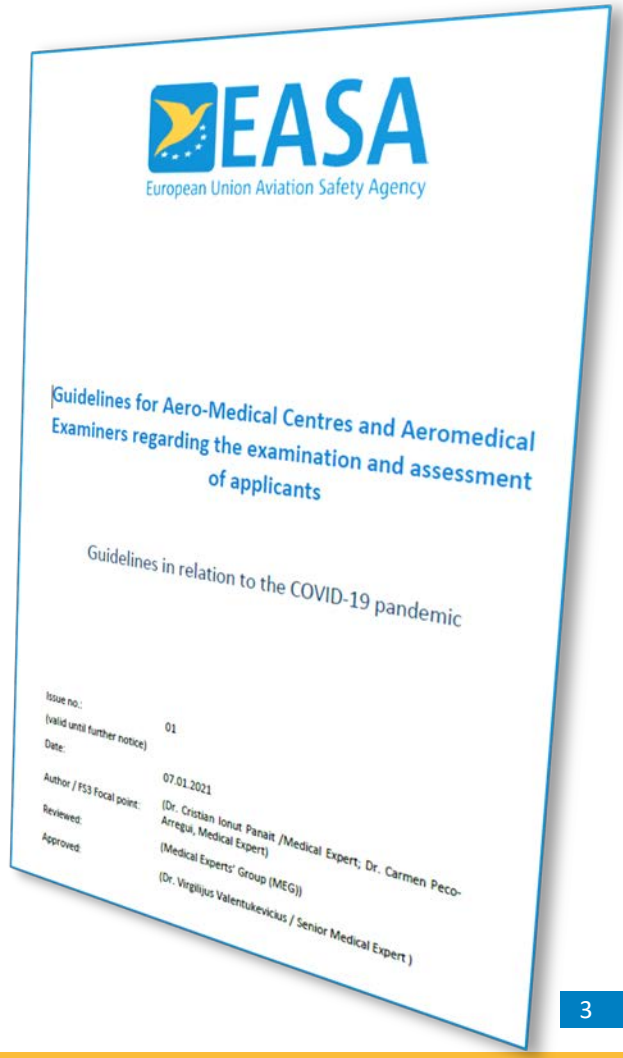
- Promotion
- Liaison
- Monitoring



Purpose



- Need to ensure safe and secure operations and restore public confidence
- Need to ensure a **harmonised** EU-wide approach to reduce complexity for operators and travellers
- **Coordination**, **communication** and **planning** essential


EASA
European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Guidelines for Aero-Medical Centres and Aeromedical Examiners regarding the examination and assessment of applicants

Guidelines in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic

Issue no.: 01
(valid until further notice)
Date: 07.01.2021
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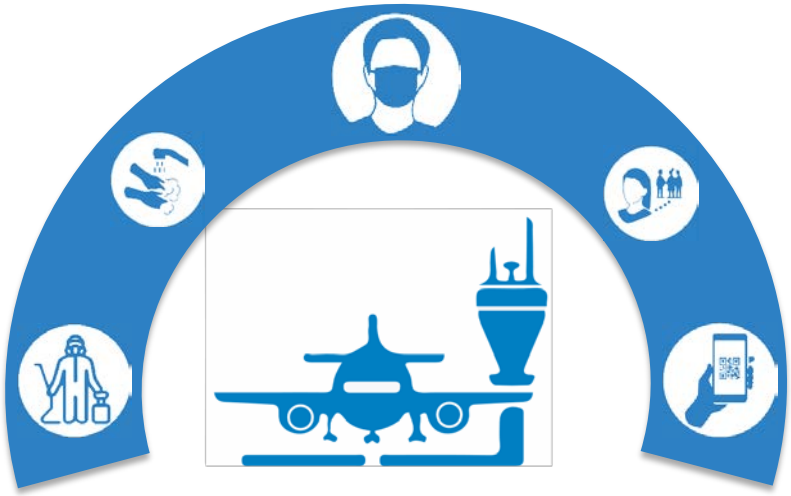
Structure



At all times

Before the airport

At the airport

On-board the aircraft

Arriving and transit

Entry measures in the country of destination

COVID-19: EASA response

31 Dec

Outbreak identified in Wuhan

27 Jan

EASA SIB on passengers and crew management

COVID-19 Safety Information Bulletin

First European case tested (DE)

11- 13 March

EASA SD mandating disinfecting and cleaning of aircraft

COVID-19 Safety Directive

WHO recognises the spread of COVID-19 as a pandemic

World Health Organization

March

Guidance on: Aircraft Cleaning and Disinfection; Crew Management; Processing of new aircraft configurations for medical transport

COVID-19 Notification

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

Europe is the epicenter of pandemic

April - May

Transport of cargo in passengers aircrafts: airworthiness aspects and operational guidance

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

COVID-19 Notification

In April US is the epicenter of pandemic

20 May

EASA/ECDC Aviation Health Safety Protocol

South America is the epicenter of the pandemic

26 May

Launch of the programme to monitor EASA/ECDC Protocol Implementation

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

EASA

COVID-19: EASA response (II)

12 Jun

Review of Aviation safety issues arising from COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

30 Jun – 1 Jul

Issue 2.0 EASA/ECDC Aviation Health Safety Protocol

Passenger Health Safety – updated measures for summer 2020

COVID-19 Safety Directive | COVID-19 Safety Information Bulletin | COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

1 July: re-opening of the intra-EU borders

17 Jul

The role of operators' management systems in the recovery phase

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

22 Jul

Guidance for return to service of aircraft from storage due to the COVID-19 pandemic

SIB on aircraft storage

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice | COVID-19 Safety Information Bulletin

23 July

EASA and Airports and Airlines Industry sign a cooperation agreement on the implementation of EASA/ECEDC Protocol

28 Aug

Guidance on virtual classroom instruction and distance learning

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

13 Nov

Guidance on cabin crew recurrent training

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

COVID-19: EASA response (III)

19 Nov
Guidelines for the continued granting of exemptions in accordance with Article 71 of the Basic Regulation
COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

20 Nov
Updated guidelines for de-storage of aircraft
COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

02 Dec
Guidelines for Use of Cargo Tracking Devices
COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

02 Dec
Testing and quarantine -Adendum EASA/ECDC Aviation Health Safety Protocol

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

17 Dec
Digital PLF exchange system – pilot test completed

Guidance on use of dry ice in COVID-19 vaccine transportation
COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

21 Dec
Guidelines for Transport of Cargo in Passenger Compartments Issue 5
COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

22 Dec

EMA recommends first COVID-19 vaccine for authorisation

EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

EASA

COVID-19: EASA response (IV)

Guidelines for Aero-Medical Centres and Aeromedical Examiner

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

07 Jan 21

Safety Information Bulletin SIB 2021-06 Vaccination of Aircrew - Operational Recommendations

COVID-19 Safety Information Bulletin

25 Mar 21

Updated Guidelines for the continued granting of exemptions in accordance with Article 71 of the Basic Regulation

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

29 Mar 21

Guidelines for Vaccination of ATCOs - Operational Recommendations

COVID-19 Guidance / Advice

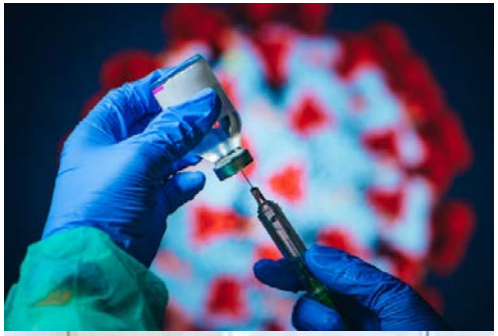
12 May 21

Issue 3.0 EASA/ECDC Aviation Health Safety Protocol

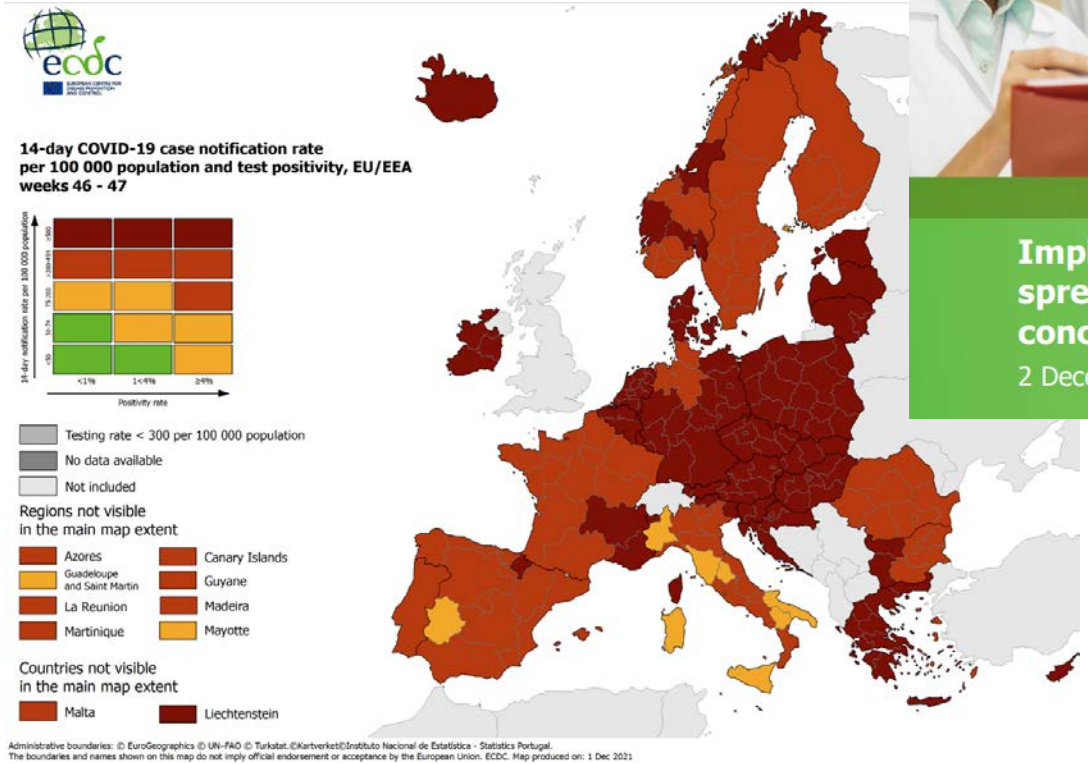
17 June 21

Vaccination of aircrew and ATCOs

- Recent US CDC and Israel publications show similar level of adverse reactions for the booster as for the second dose of vaccine.
- AMEs to remind all applicants of their obligations regarding decrease of medical fitness.
- Monitoring and reporting to the CAA the adverse reactions identified in aviation personnel
- Proper booster policy is extremely important to maintain the risk of infection for aviation personnel at a low level



ECDC monitoring and advice

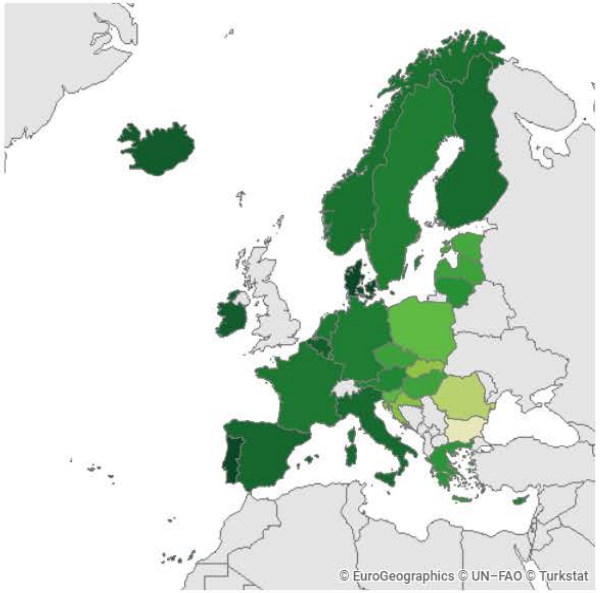


ECDC monitoring and advice

Total doses distributed to EU/EEA countries **856,745,619** | **649,927,713** Total doses administered in EU/EEA countries

Indicator: Uptake full vaccination | Country: All EU/EEA countries | Adults 18+ | Total Population | EU | EU/EEA

Cumulative uptake (%) of full vaccination in the total population in EU/EEA countries as of 2021-12-06



Uptake full vaccination (%)

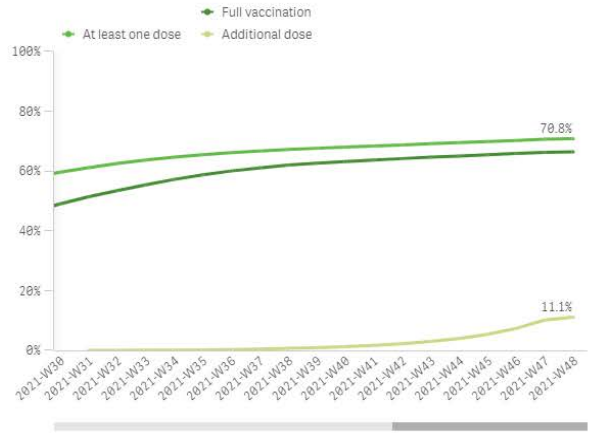
25.9% 81.7%

Cumulative uptake of at least one dose in the total population in EU/EEA	Cumulative uptake of full vaccination in the total population in EU/EEA
70.8%	66.4%

Number of people with at least one dose in EU/EEA	Number of full vaccinations in the total population in EU/EEA
320,847,364	300,959,201

Cumulative vaccine uptake (%) in the total population in EU/EEA countries as of 2021-12-06

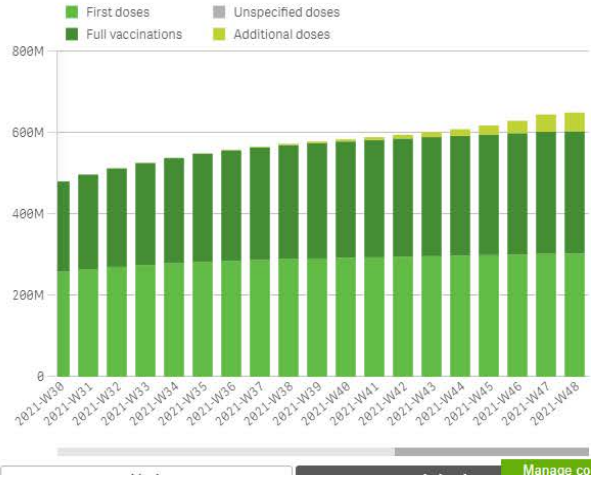
by reporting week (data for the current week are preliminary)



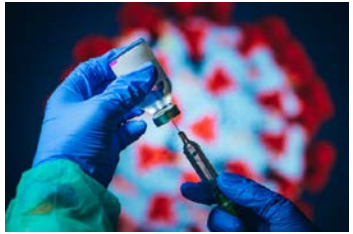
Uptake (%) of additional vaccine dose is based on 29 countries

Cumulative number of vaccine doses administered to the total population in EU/EEA countries as of 2021-12-06

by reporting week (data for current week are preliminary)

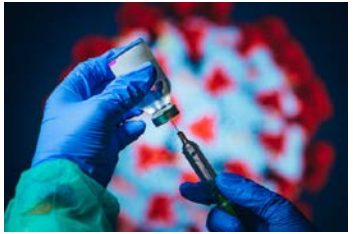


EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate



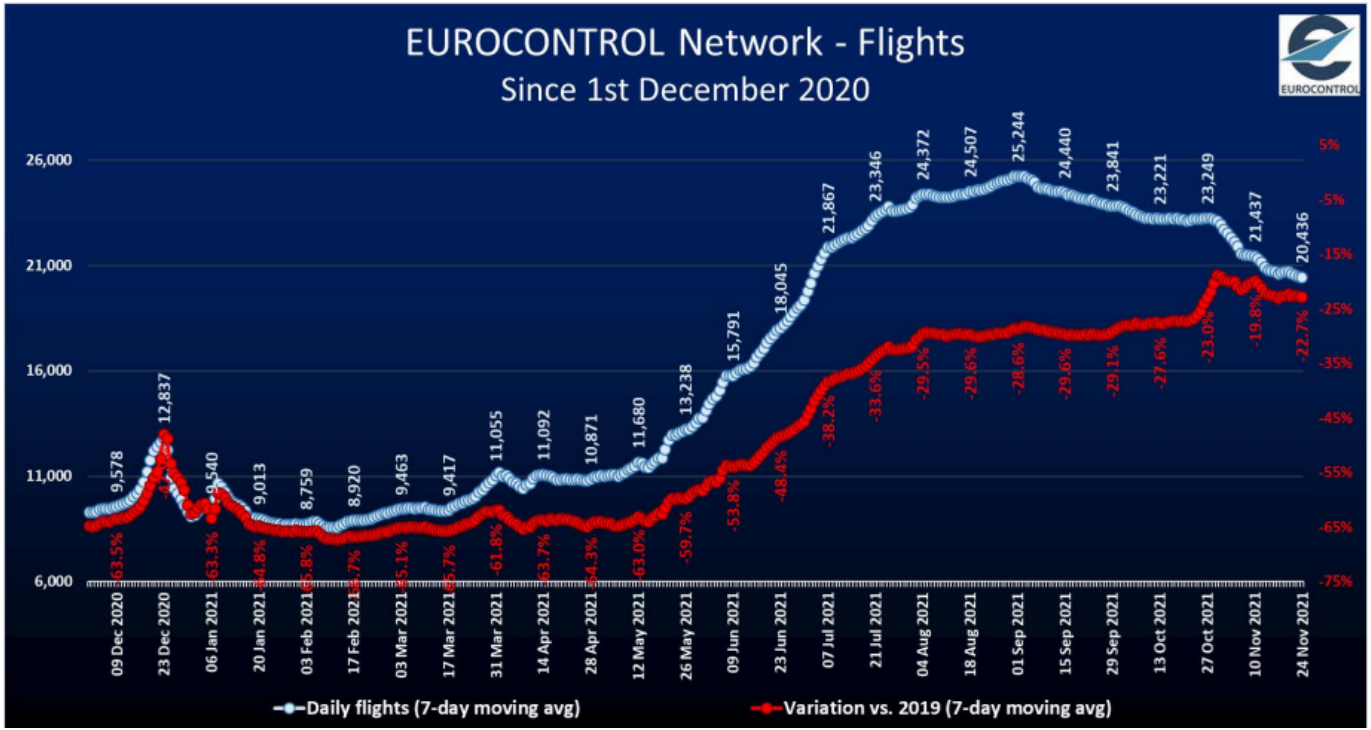
- The **EU Digital COVID Certificate** contains a QR code to certify if a person was **vaccinated**, has **recovered** from COVID-19 in the past 180 or was **tested negative**.
- When the certificate is checked, the QR code is scanned and the signature verified.
- Each issuing body (e.g. a hospital, a test centre, a health authority) has its own digital signature key. All of these are stored in a secure database in each country.
- The European Commission has built a gateway through which all certificate signatures can be verified across the EU. The personal data of the certificate holder does not pass through the gateway, as this is not necessary to verify the digital signature.
- The European Commission recently recommended a booster at 6 months following complete vaccination
- To allow implementation time of the booster to the Member States the validity of the EU DCC has been limited to 9 months for the vaccinated .

EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate



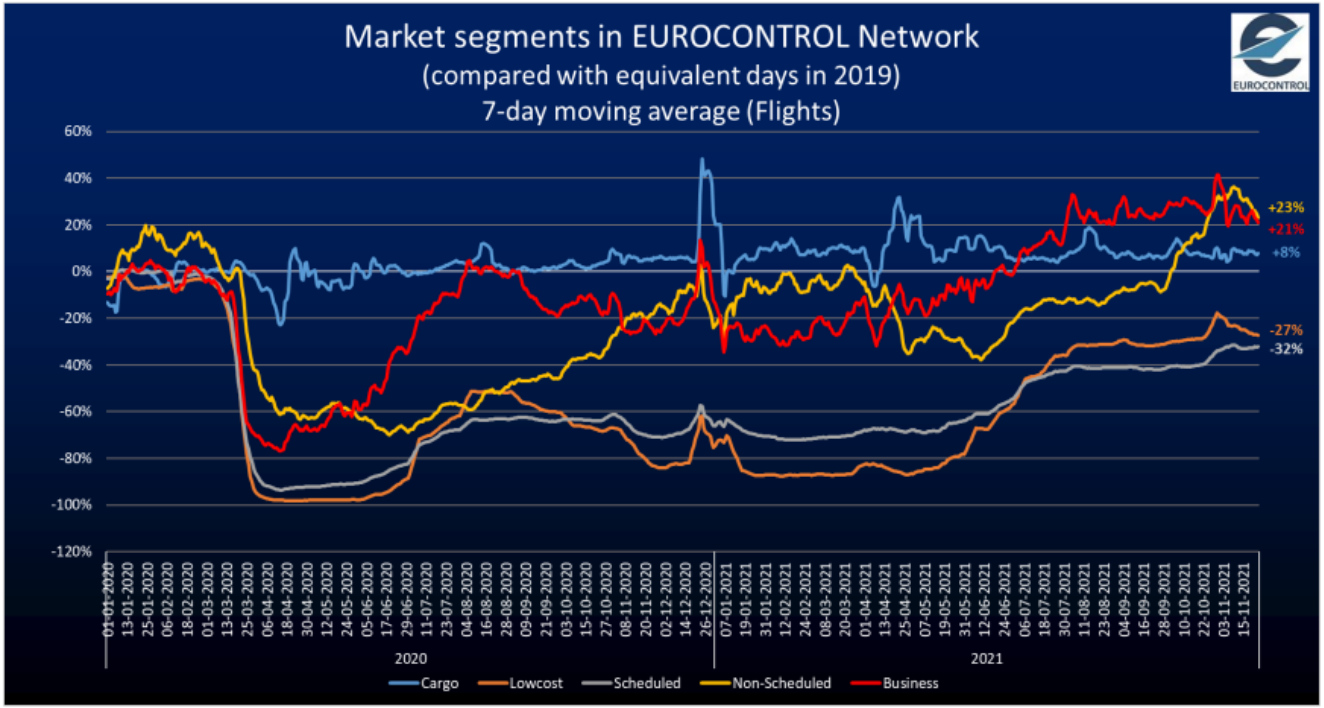
- The **EU Digital COVID Certificate** is based on **freeware technology** making it easily adoptable by other States
- **25 non-EU countries** (and territories) **joined the EU DCC** system. This includes: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, El Salvador, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Israel, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, The Vatican
- The European Commission also helped Member States to develop national software and apps to issue, store and verify certificates and supported them in the necessary tests to on-board the gateway.

Current situation in Europe



- The traffic at network level has reached its maximum on Friday 27 August 2021 with 26,773 flights (-27.7% vs 2019).
- Since early September, it has slowly decreased
- With the winter schedule, it has stabilized around 77% of 2019 levels.

Current situation in Europe



On 24 November 2021, compared to 2019:

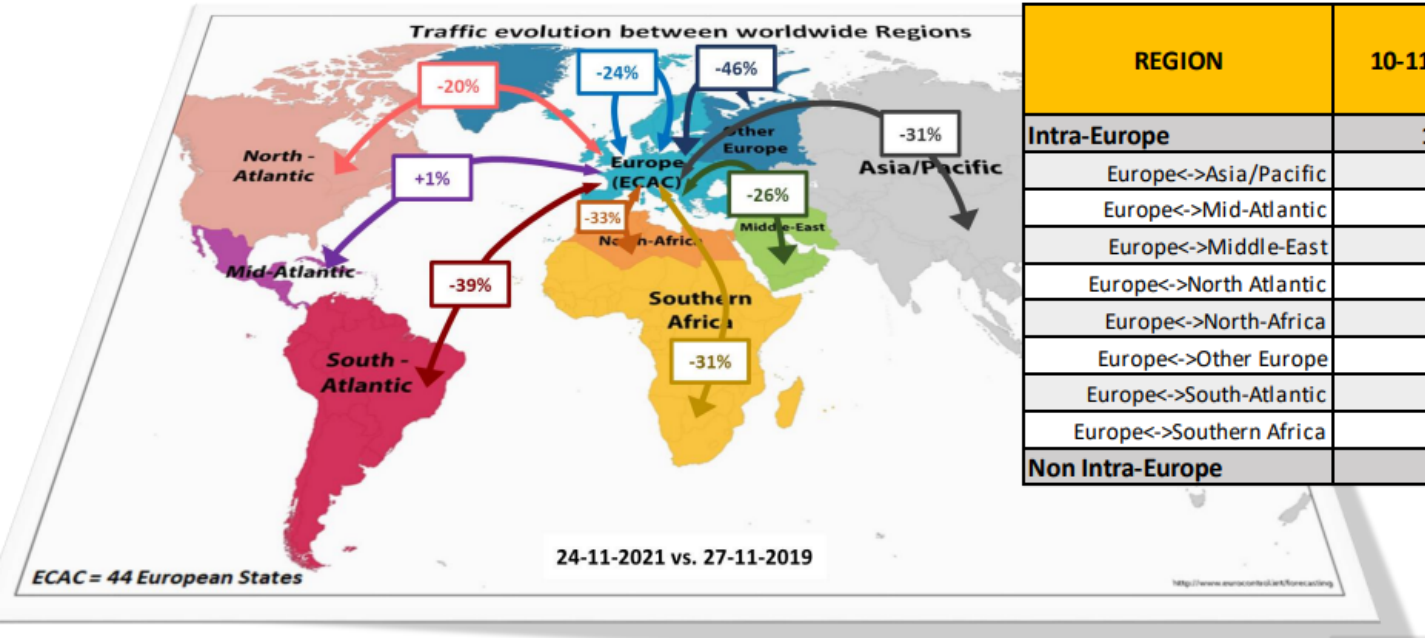
- Three segments are above 2019 levels: **All-cargo** (+8%), **Business Aviation** (+21%) and **Charter** (+23%) which has started to decrease since early November.
- Since early November, **Traditional** have stabilized at **-32%** vs 2019 while **Low-Cost**, after having reached a maximum of -18% end October, have gradually decreased to reach **-27%** vs 2019.

Current situation in Europe

Rank evolution over 2 weeks	Top 10 Aircraft Operators on Wed 24-11-2021				
	Aircraft Operator	Flights	Δ over 2 weeks	% over 2 weeks	% vs 2019
→	Ryanair Group	1822	↗ +4	+0%	↗ +18%
→	Turkish Airlines	969	→ +1	+0%	↘ -17%
→	Lufthansa Airlines	932	↗ +4	+0%	↘ -37%
→	Air France Group	765	↘ -71	-8%	↘ -32%
→	KLM Group	593	↗ +17	+3%	↘ -19%
→	SAS Group	544	↘ -17	-3%	↘ -42%
↗	British Airways Group	447	↗ +11	+3%	↘ -49%
↘	easyJet Group	428	↘ -131	-23%	↘ -54%
↗	Wideroe	372	↘ -28	-7%	↘ -7%
↗	Pegasus	360	↘ -7	-2%	↘ -10%

- **19,978 flights** on Wednesday 24 November.
- **-5%** with **-986 flight** over 2 weeks (from Wednesday 10 November).
- **-1%** with **-275 flights** over 1 week (from Wednesday 17 November).
- **77%** of 2019 traffic levels on Wednesday 24 November.

Current situation in Europe



REGION	10-11-2021	24-11-2021	%	vs. 2019
Intra-Europe	**16 414**	**15 634**	*-5%*	*-24%*
Europe<->Asia/Pacific	512	543	*+6%*	*-31%*
Europe<->Mid-Atlantic	147	149	*+1%*	*+1%*
Europe<->Middle-East	922	918	*-0%*	*-26%*
Europe<->North Atlantic	733	709	*-3%*	*-20%*
Europe<->North-Africa	629	527	*-16%*	*-33%*
Europe<->Other Europe	503	433	*-14%*	*-46%*
Europe<->South-Atlantic	117	106	*-9%*	*-39%*
Europe<->Southern Africa	232	232	*+0%*	*-31%*
Non Intra-Europe	**3 795**	**3 617**	*-5%*	*-30%*

Return to Normal Operations project

from WS4 to Health Safety project

- Aviation activities have resumed through normal mechanisms – rulemaking, oversight, exemptions, safety promotion, etc.
- RNO project schedule to close 1st January 2022 – a Health Safety project will continue to manage the health related activities and documents.

EASA charter programme

Monitoring implementation

- 53 airport operators (123 reporting airports) and 55 airlines have signed the Aviation Industry Charter, covering around 50% of European air traffic
- Briefing and training modules as well as checklists for Aviation Authorities inspectors on implementation monitoring have been published by EASA
- Any deficiencies are identified and signaled to the respective organisations and corrective action is requested
- The Charter as a pledge to implement the recommendations of EASA and ECDC AHSP remains in force. But the reporting mechanism will stop.

Health Safety project

- EASA ECDC working agreement
  - Facilitate future collaboration
- EASA to have access to **Epipulse** platform
  - Allowing monitoring of outbreaks with potential impact on aviation OPS
  - Embrace a preventive rather than reactive approach, similar to what is done for the conflict zones
- Management of SDs, SIBs, guidance material
  - Consider duration of vaccine-induced and natural immunity
  - Gradual de-escalation strategies to mirror the risk level
  - Medical Experts' Group – sounding board for technical medical topics

Harmonisation is the key

- Cross-domain and international harmonisation of measures
- Mutual recognition of measures
  - EASA/ECDC AHSP - means of compliance for CART in Europe
- Avoid fraud and abuse in a coordinated manner
  - EU Digital COVID certificates – vaccination/testing/recovery
- Research
- Preparedness planning & Facilitation

EASA
European Union Aviation Safety Agency

Thank you for your attention!

For further information:
https://www.easa.europa.eu/the-agency/coronavirus-covid-19

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/covid-19

Your safety is our mission.

Your health is also our mission.

easa.europa.eu/connect

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