

CZ Opening Statement for the HLM-LTAG

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A LONG-TERM
ASPIRATIONAL GOAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION CO₂ EMISSIONS
REDUCTIONS (HLM-LTAG)**

on behalf of the **EU**, the **EU Member States** and the **non-EU Member States of
ECAC**

by **Mr. Martin Kupka**, Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic,
holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and
Mr. Henrik Hololei, Director-General for Mobility and Transport at the European
Commission

{Part delivered by Minister Kupka}

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to speak to you today on behalf of all European Union and all ECAC States, as the Czech Republic is holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In Europe, we are witnessing a growing public demand for aviation to step up its efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.

And indeed, the Europe is taking action to considerably reduce aviation emissions.

There are actions like the Clean Aviation Programme or the Innovation Fund. EU flagship legislation, so-called *Fit for 55* package sets the rules for increased production and uptake of sustainable aviation fuels. Other ECAC states are similarly ambitious with various decarbonisation strategies.

We gathered here **to voice our commitment** to the long-term sustainability and future growth of the aviation sector, **to reaffirm that ICAO** plays the most important role in the global set up of innovative, competitive, resilient and sustainable future of aviation, **and to commit ourselves** to utmost collective efforts to reduce its environmental footprint.

Dear delegates, please, **join me** in using this Meeting to work towards an informed decision on a long-term goal to reduce CO₂ emissions from international aviation.

Now, with your agreement, Mr. Chairman, I will pass on the floor to Mr. Henrik Hololei from the European Commission, who is heading the EU Delegation at this High-level Meeting.

{Part delivered by DG Hololei}

Thank you and very warm greetings to all of you.

Your excellences, distinguished guests,

I fully share Minister Kupka's call that this is a make-or-break moment for ICAO, for international civil aviation and for all of us who want to make aviation more sustainable.

It is here, almost three years ago when we agreed to step up our work to respond to the sustainability challenge. We agreed to explore the feasibility of a long-term goal and today we must do our utmost to deliver a strong and ambitious message to the world about this.

Since we were here last time, many things have changed and the world is a different place. But many challenges have remained. Sustainability continues to be the single

most defining challenge in relation to the growth in aviation sector. The way we respond to it and the actions we take will have a significant impact on the global civil aviation for decades to come. We can become a benchmark among UN institutions, or our actions – or inaction – will have a significant impact the way aviation will be perceived in most parts of the world. We need to be smart and realistic but also ambitious.

ICAO has successfully overseen safe and secure connectivity and I am confident that it will now oversee sustainable connectivity.

The future belongs to those who shape it, to those who have a vision and make that vision happen. Quoting Theodore Roosevelt “In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing”.

The sustainability pledges of industry are a good and serious step forward but more needs to be done. It is encouraging that the industry sees aviation as part of the

solution and is gearing up to carbon-neutral path. This vision must encourage ICAO to adopt the net-zero goal in 2050 that is consistent with keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees. For the interest of all of us.

ICAO can only do that if it is fully aware that not all are starting from same place. We must make use of support mechanisms, to advance all together, with No Country Left Behind, on the path of sustainability. We Europeans stand ready to support, to accompany and to assist our partners from other parts of the world. We are ready to work closely with all states for the implementation of a route, which will reshape aviation.

It is time to build back better! Let us do this together!