

12MAR2020



To,

The Director P & S
Airports economic regulatory authority of India
AERA Building
Safdarjung Airport
New Delhi -11003

RE: Response to proposal of Compensation in Lieu of FTC at BIAL

Respected Sir,

Greetings from the Airline Operators Committee Bangalore and thank you for the opportunity to pass on our comments on the proposal mentioned in the consultation paper 21/2019-20.

In view of the travel slump due to CoVID-19 crisis, worldwide airlines are facing acute financial stress. As all non-essential as well as business travel is being put-off, and also due to the severe and dynamic travel restrictions in many parts of the globe, airlines are facing an acute Cash crunch as revenues are not materializing. Many airlines are laying off staff, asking staff to go on unpaid leaves and grounding a majority of their fleet to mitigate the financial and be able to tide over the crisis.

The situation is unprecedented and graver than the aviation crisis post 9/11 terror attacks. In this environment, it will be extremely harsh and penalizing for the airlines to be burdened with additional costs and for any previous revenue shortage to be recovered!

Under these circumstances, we not only request AERA to put off any further increase in charges, but also support by providing a financial assistance package to airlines to tide over the current crisis in the interest of long term sustainability of operations and continued provision of affordable fares as well as multiple travelling options to the passengers.

Airlines who operate to BLR have shown tremendous commitment towards India as well as BLR operations by recent increase in frequencies which were mostly announced prior to the current crisis. As airlines struggle for survival during the financial crunch, it would be apt for AERA to support the airlines who have shown commitment towards BLR operations.

Thank you in advance

Samuel Prabhakar

Chairman

Rajesh Menon

Secretary