



# Airport experience with EU State Aid

Bastiaan de Bruijne – General Counsel, ACI EUROPE

**Croatian Transport Law Association**

*Zagreb (virtual), 14 October 2021*



# → Traffic free fall



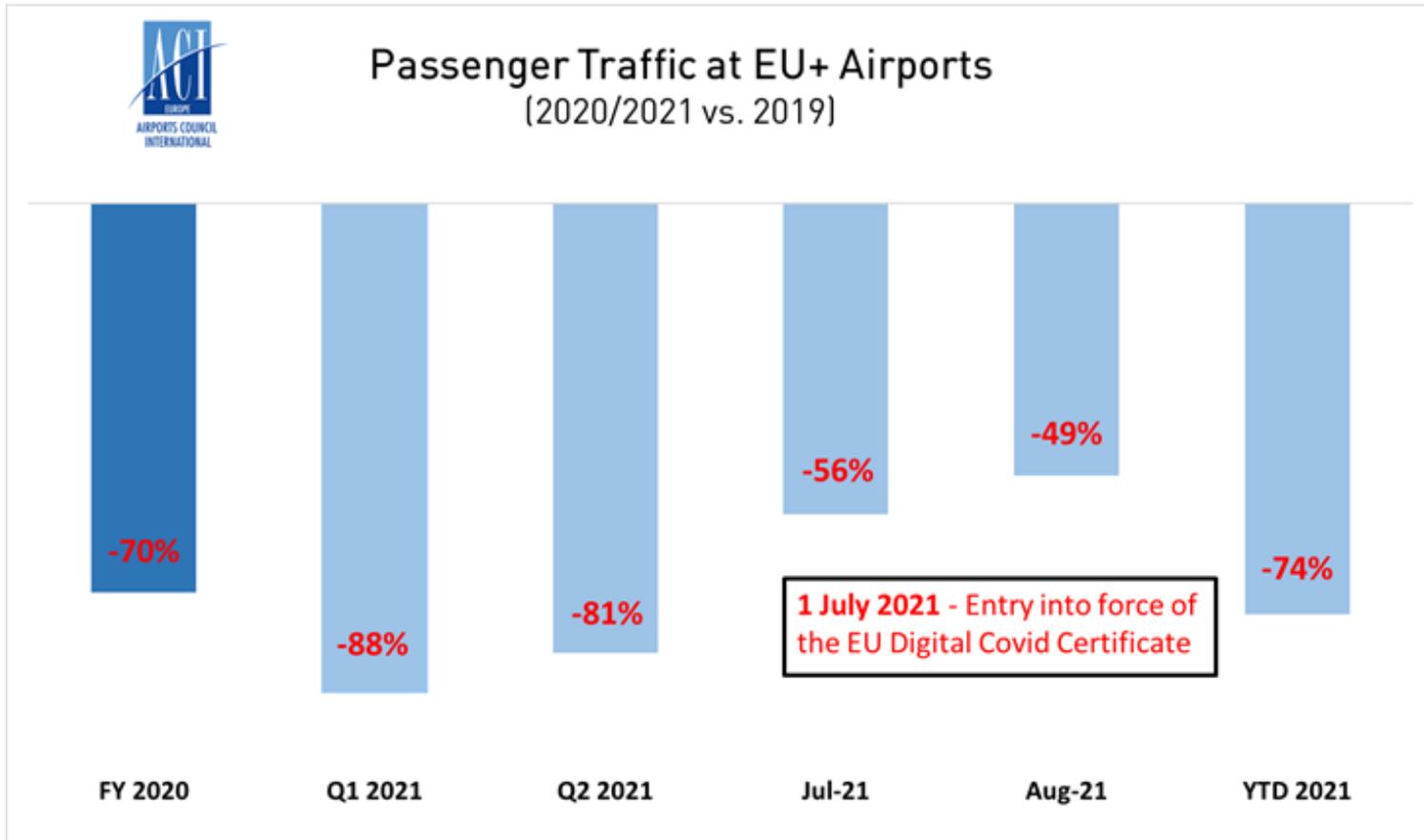
**-1.7 billion**

**passengers lost for European Airports  
(YTD)**

**As of 31 December 2020**



# → Airports: Passengers Lost



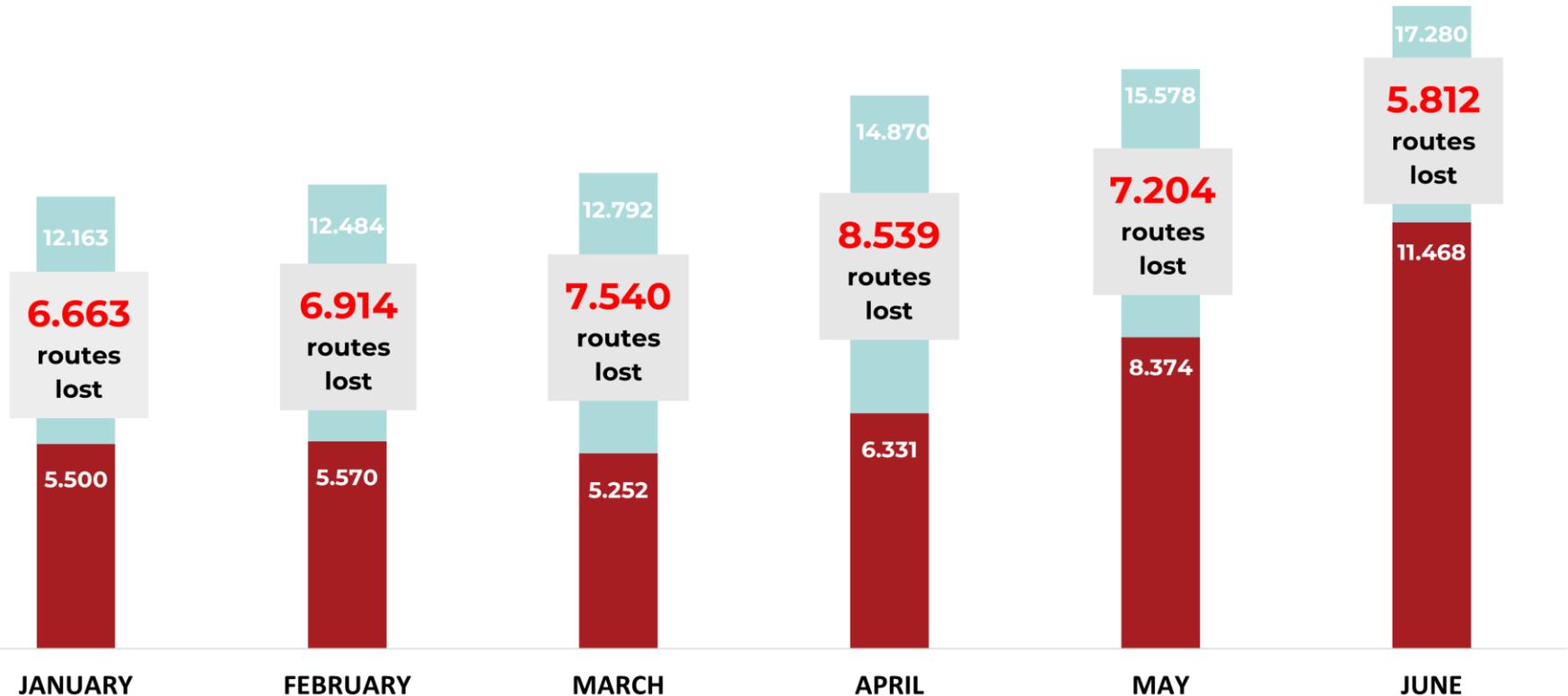
# → Connectivity: Routes Lost



## TOTAL NUMBER OF AIR ROUTES SERVED BY EUROPEAN AIRPORTS

(JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2019) + % DECREASE IN 2021

■ 2019 ■ 2021

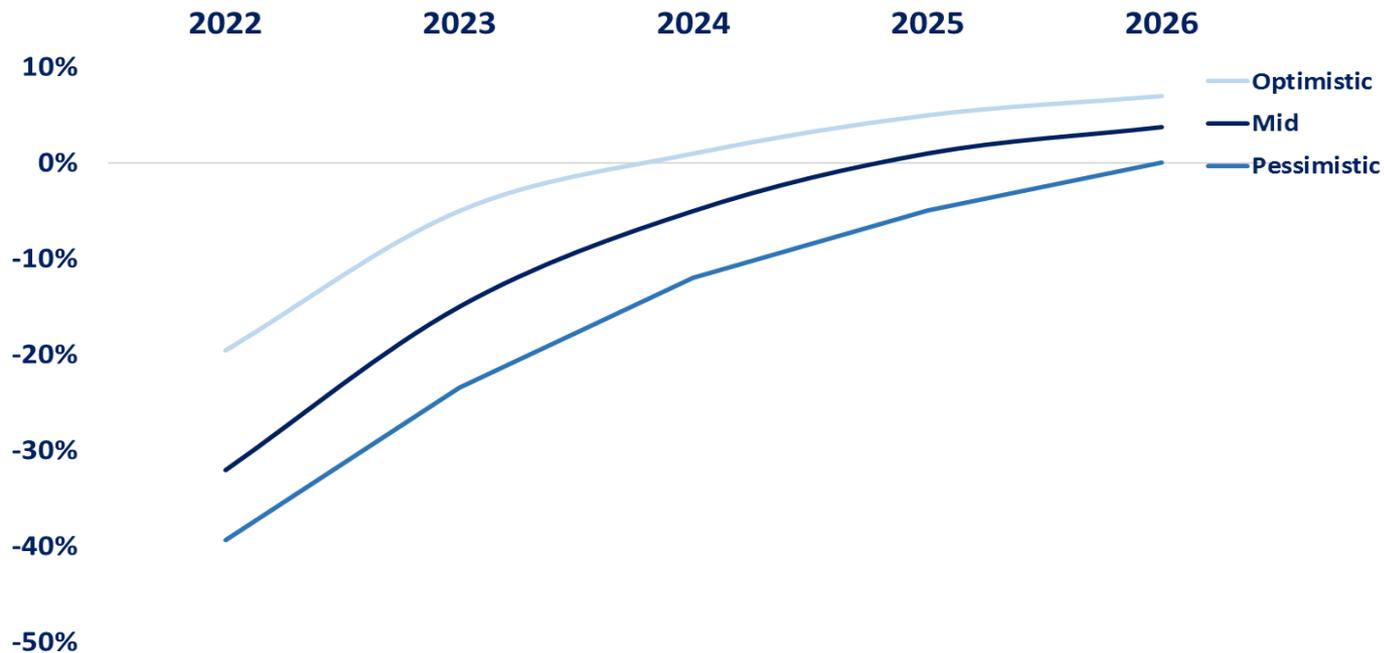


Methodology: 3<sup>rd</sup> week of month, departing flights from ACI EUROPE airport members.

# Forecast: Airport Passengers



## European Airport Passenger Traffic 5-year Forecast



# → Financial impact: losses & debts

- Top 20 Airports: **€16 billion added debt** – 5 to 10 ‘normal’ years to repay
- 70% Airports providing discounts: **loss making airports**
- Less traffic & lower income but investments needed: **investment crunch**



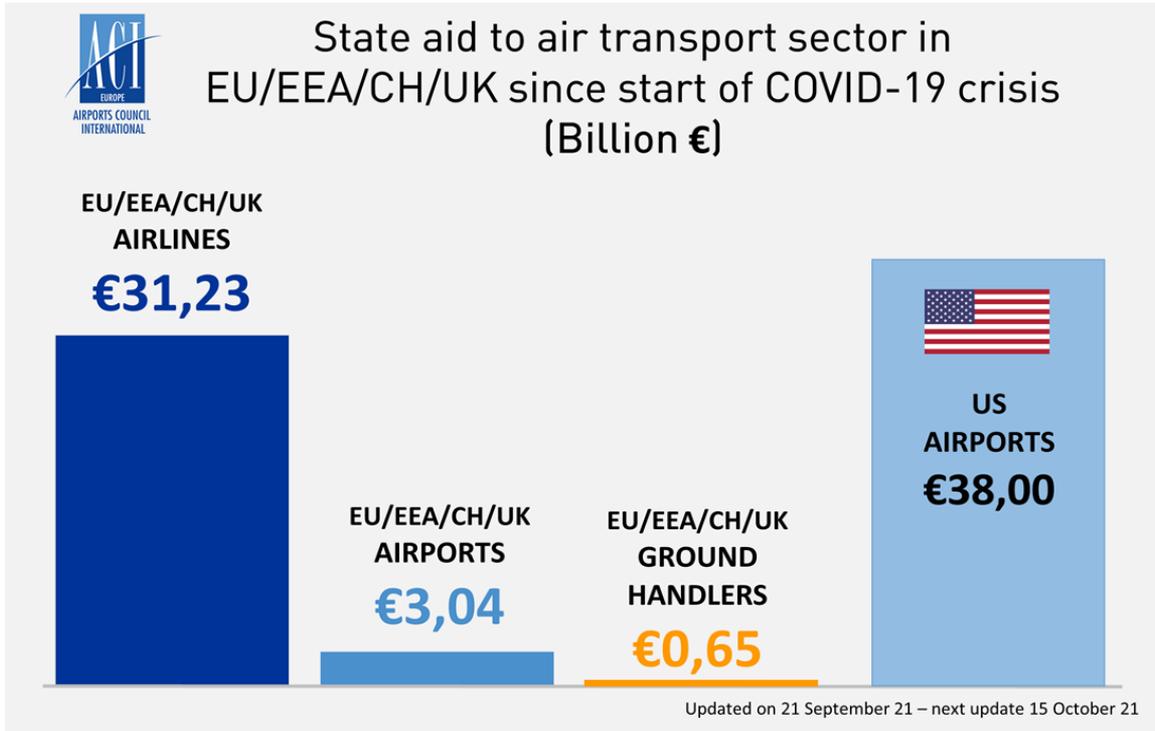
REUTERS

Almost 200 European airports face insolvency, airports body ACI Europe says

By Marine Strauss



# → State Aid – imbalanced...



## FINANCIAL TIMES

Deutsche Lufthansa AG

### Lufthansa chief says €9bn bailout larger than needed for survival

Rescue package aims to cement group's position as 'German global champion', admits Carsten Spohr



# → Twin Challenge: Recovery & Greening

- **Recovery:** a new competitive landscape for airlines & airports

EU court rejects Ryanair challenge to state aid for rival airlines

Low-cost airline argues support given to national carriers is discriminatory

- **Greening:** EU aviation needs to reach net zero CO2 by 2050



## FINANCIAL TIMES

Climate Capital Airlines

European airlines face big hit as cost of polluting soars

Carbon allowance prices have been on record breaking rally

## FINANCIAL TIMES

Climate Capital Climate change

Shell verdict sets scene for more corporate climate cases

Ruling establishing duty of care on human rights grounds suggests more companies will face litigation



# → EU State aid developments

- **EU Recovery Funding** not for Airports (except Zadar)
- **Temporary Framework (final) prolongation until 30 June 2022** & expanded with ‘sustainable recovery measures’ in phase-out period
- **Compensation for Damages** continues – beyond Summer 2020!



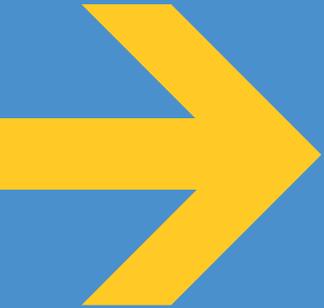
# → EU State aid developments (2)

- Green Agenda: **‘Climate & Environment State aid Guidelines’** – including support for zero-emission transport & Green Airports



- State aid for Airports: **Aviation State aid Guidelines** – EC should prolong support for Regional Airports beyond 2024 (especially after pandemic)





# THANK YOU

[www.aci-europe.org](http://www.aci-europe.org)

[www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org](http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org)

