

# COVID-19 impact on the aviation community and on aircrew

ESAM Academy webinar on the effects of  
the COVID-19 pandemic

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An Agency of the European Union 

# Presentation Overview

Impact on aviation

EASA activity

Physical fitness

Mental health and wellbeing

## Impact on aviation

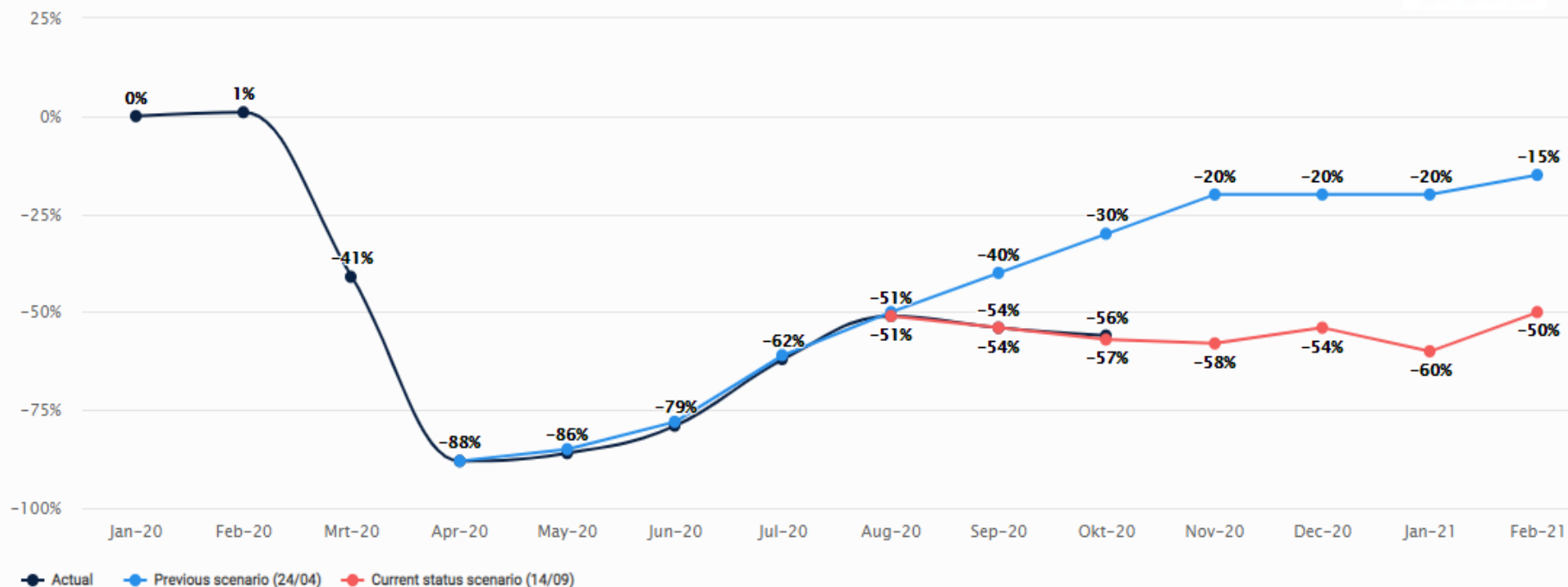
**COVID19 Impact on European Air Traffic**  
EUROCONTROL Comprehensive Assessment

Wednesday, 14 October 2020



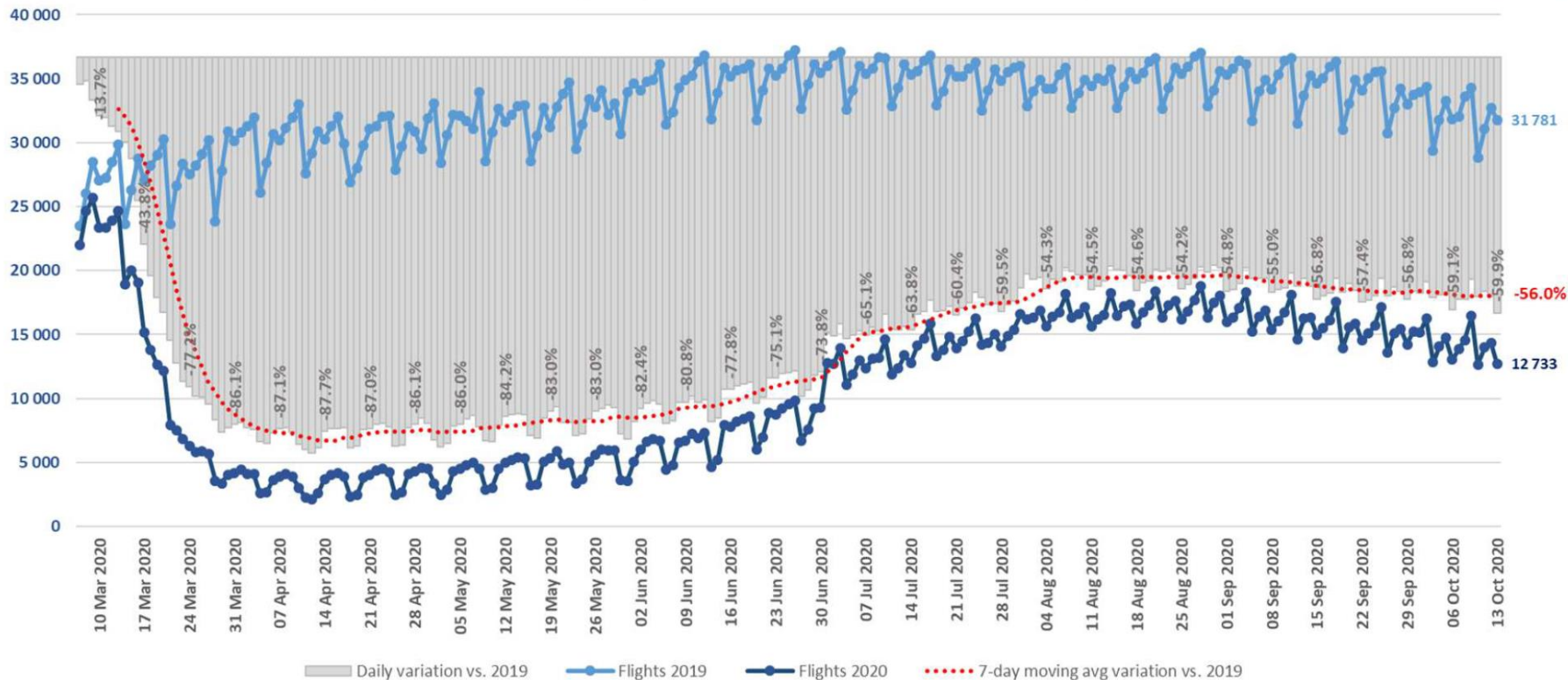
EUROCONTROL

## EUROCONTROL Draft Traffic Scenarios - 14 September 2020 (base year 2019/2020)

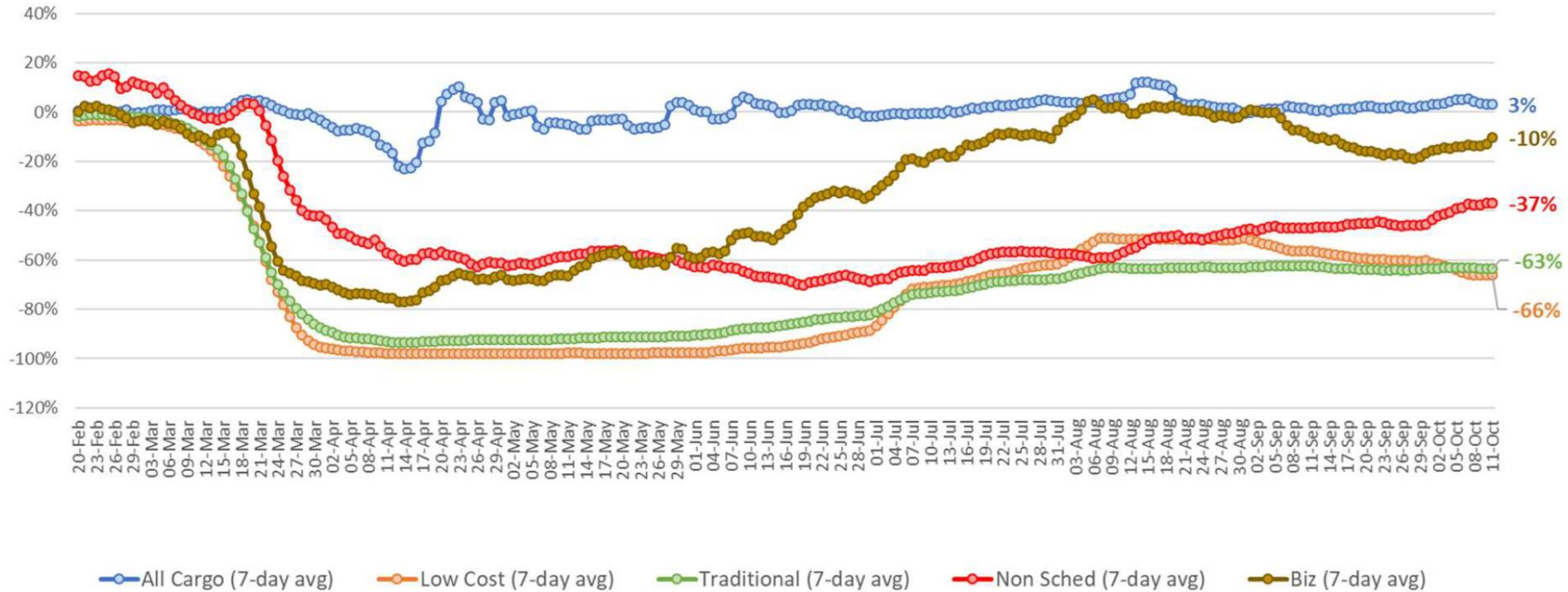


# EUROCONTROL Network

## Daily Variation (Flights) compared with equivalent days in 2019

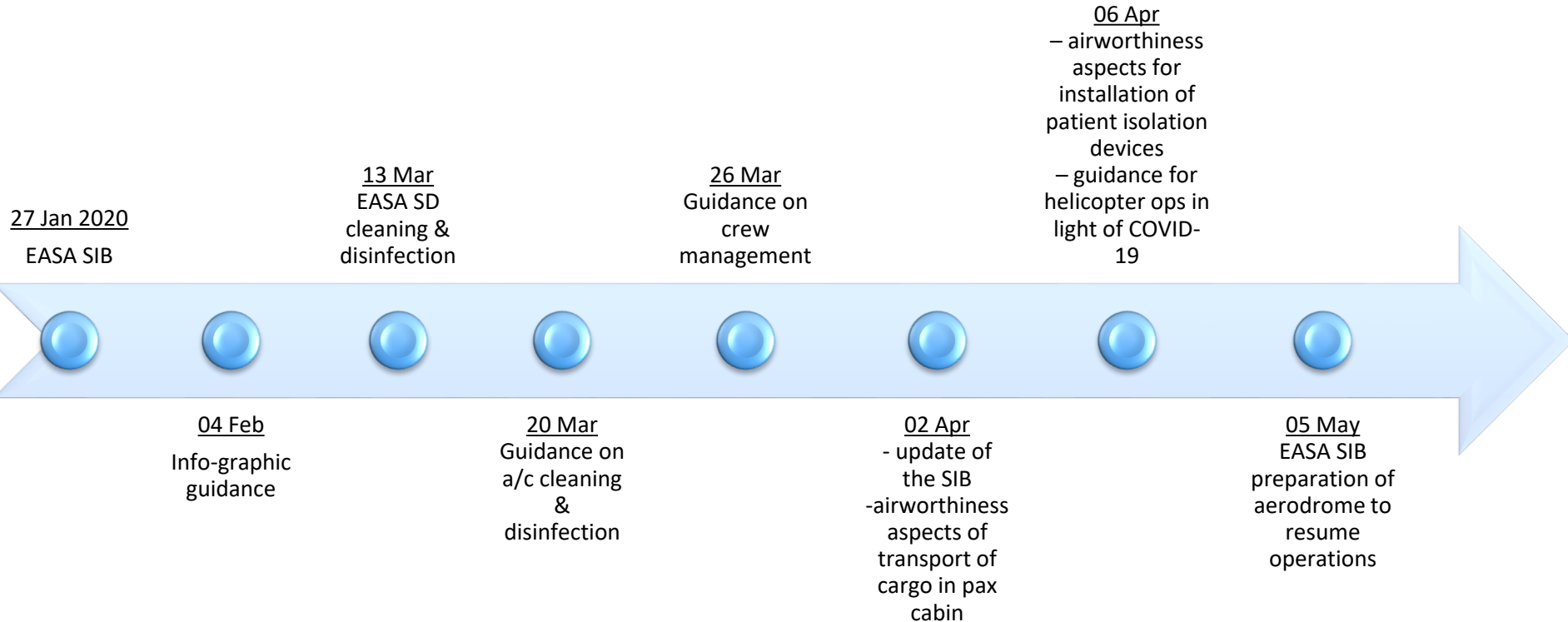


# Market segments in EUROCONTROL Network (compared with equivalent days in 2019) Daily Variation (Flights)



## EASA Activity

# EASA actions on COVID-19





# COVID-19 actions

20 May  
EASA-ECDC  
Aviation Health  
Safety Protocol

10 June  
Update guidance  
for transport of  
cargo in the pax  
cabin

16 June  
guidelines for air  
operators on the  
role of operator's  
management  
system in the  
COVID-19 recovery  
phase

26 May  
Program to  
monitor the  
implementation  
of AHSP

12 June  
EASA published Review  
of Aviation Safety Issues  
Arising from the COVID-  
19 Pandemic

25 June  
Update of EASA SDs  
& Recommendations for  
General Aviation  
operations during  
COVID-19 Pandemic

# COVID-19 actions

01 July

Passenger Health Safety updated measures for summer 2020 including: updates SIB, AHSP, guidance for a/c cleaning and disinfection, guidance for crew management

22 July

EASA published guidelines for return to service of aircraft from storage in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic

06 Aug

EASA SIB 2020-14 in relation to aircraft stored due to the COVID-19 pandemic

15 Sep  
2<sup>nd</sup>

Webinar on Support programs

10 July

1<sup>st</sup> webinar on support programs

29 July

Provision of ground handling services at aerodromes following COVID-19 outbreak

28 Aug

EASA publishes guidance for allowing virtual classroom instruction and distance learning

# EASA Future projects

- Guidance regarding fitness assessment of applicants that have been COVID-19 positive
- Mental health and wellbeing of safety relevant aviation personnel
- Update of AHSP

# Physical fitness

# COVID-19 sequelae

- COVID-19 positive patients may have sequelae for unknown period of time:
  - Neurologic
  - Respiratory
  - Vascular
  - Sensorial
  - May affect other systems such as
    - Metabolic
    - Renal
    - Mental

# COVID-19 positive case assessment

- AME should give more details to the anamnestic interview in regard to respiratory conditions and other medical conditions requiring medical assessment or hospitalisation.
- In case a history of COVID-19 positivity is found – further details should be sought and reviewed. The review should include:
  - clinical data,
  - complementary testing such as Lab testing and image diagnosis
  - treatment provided, including oxygen therapy or assisted ventilation

# COVID-19 positive case assessment

- Further examinations may be required in order to ensure a reliable aero-medical assessment in terms of organic or functional sequelae of the body systems mentioned previously
- Consideration should be given to evolving knowledge regarding the evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 infection

# COVID-19 positive case assessment

- Several Member States provided guidance material for their AMEs to consider during their medical assessments
- Applicants are free to travel to any Member State to undergo medical examinations – harmonised approach would help to ensure a similar level of safety.



# Mental health and wellbeing

# COVID-19 impact

- Reduced number of flights
- Personnel reduction
- Uncertainty regarding the future of the job/existence of the operator
- Fear of COVID
- Effects of relatives & friends being sick or even dying
- Effects of lockdown
- Reduced training & competence

# Aviation safety

**Safety goal – to ensure that flight safety is not impacted in a negative way**

- What ?
  - Support groups for all safety relevant positions
  - Ensuring the employer takes all measures in accordance with Just Culture principles
  - Reduce overall stressors
  - Stress coping techniques

# Aviation safety

**Safety goal – to ensure that flight safety is not impacted in a negative way**

- How?
  - SIB vs. Guidelines
  - Safety promotion

Thank you for your attention



Questions

[easa.europa.eu/connect](https://easa.europa.eu/connect)



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