



## Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

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International Air Transport Association (IATA)  
Mr. de Juniac, director general  
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Quebec  
Canada

**DG Health**  
Public Health Department

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**Our reference**  
1653536-202384-PG

**Your reference**

*All correspondence addressed to the postal address quoting date and reference of this letter.*

Date **21 FEB. 2020**  
Subject Informing airlines with regards to KLMs considerations resulting in the decision to temporarily suspend flights to

Dear Mr. de Juniac,

On 6 February 2020 the Dutch parliament requested the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport to inform airlines with regards to the information and considerations of the Royal Dutch Airlines (KLM), resulting in their decision to temporarily suspend flights to and from the mainland of the People's Republic of China (hereafter: mainland China). In accordance with this parliamentary request I would hereby like to inform the IATA of these considerations and ask you to make this information available for the airline sector. We acknowledge and appreciate the extensive information provided on your website about the novel coronavirus.

Firstly I would like to emphasize that the suspension of air services to and from mainland China is not, at present, government policy. The World Health Organization (WHO) has explicitly warned against such disproportionate measures. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has advised to only travel to China if such trips are necessary, but has not advised further travel restrictions.

In making its decision to suspend flights to and from mainland China, KLM prioritizes the health of its employees and customers. KLM maintains close contact with various national and international health and aviation authorities such as the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). These organisations provide detailed information and advice, including information specifically for the aviation sector. In addition, the travel-advice of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs is consulted. Lastly commercial considerations are of influence. As there is currently no demand for flights to mainland China KLM has chosen to suspend flights.



I hope the information above is sufficiently clear. If you have any further questions please let me know.

**DG Health**  
Public Health Department

Yours sincerely,

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Bruno Bruins  
Minister for Medical Care and Sport

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