

Airbus takes final step to end long-standing WTO dispute and U.S. tariffs

Toulouse, 24 July 2020 - Airbus has agreed with the governments of France and Spain to make amendments to the A350 Repayable Launch Investment (RLI) contracts. After 16 years of litigation at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), this is the final step to stop the long-standing dispute and removes any justification for U.S. tariffs.

The tariffs imposed by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) are currently harming all targeted industry sectors, including U.S. airlines, and are adding to a very difficult environment as a consequence of the COVID-19 crisis. This is why Airbus has decided to make a final step to remove the last contentious point and amend the French and Spanish contracts to what the WTO considers the appropriate interest rate and risk assessment benchmarks. The WTO has already ruled that RLI is a valid instrument for governments to partner with industry by sharing investment risks. With this final move, Airbus considers itself in complete compliance with all WTO rulings.

“We have fully complied with all the WTO requirements. These additional amendments to the A350 RLIs demonstrate that Airbus has left no stone unturned to find a way towards a solution,” said Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury. “This is a clear signal of support to those who are suffering from the severe impact of the tariffs imposed by the USTR, especially at a time when industries are hard hit by the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis.”

* * *

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2019, it generated revenues of €70 billion and employed a workforce of around 135,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

Follow us



If you wish to update your preferences to Airbus Communications, media@airbus.com
If you no longer wish to receive communications from Airbus, media@airbus.com

Newsroom**Contacts for the media****Justin Dubon**

External Communications
+33 6 74 97 49 51
justin.dubon@airbus.com

Ian Middleton

Communications (UK)
+44 7885 508 527
ian.middleton@airbus.com

James Darcy

External Communications (US)
+1 571 214 1722
james.darcy@airbus.com

Clay McConnell

Communications (US)
+1 571 278 0612
clay.mcconnell@airbus.com

Guillaume Steuer

External Communications
+33 (0)6 73 82 11 68
guillaume.steuer@airbus.com

Marie-Alix Delestrade

Communications (Spain)
+34 687 042 725
marie-alix.delestrade@airbus.com

Follow us

If you wish to update your preferences to Airbus Communications, media@airbus.com
If you no longer wish to receive communications from Airbus, media@airbus.com