

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SITCPLA TO ALL AFFILIATES

March 18, 2020

Dear all,

As a cabin crew member active for more than thirty years, first of all, and as president of the union that unites us all, I would like to send you a message of calm and support from SITCPLA in the face of the difficult situation that the air transport sector is undergoing.

We are going through very difficult times for everyone, an unprecedented crisis, especially for the aviation and our profession. During the past few weeks we have been repatriating people, bringing thousands of passengers to where they should or wanted to be, mainly with their families. The cabin crews carry out flights that have become humanitarian in very difficult conditions, due to the general lack of personal protective equipment (PPE). This means leaving home, exposing yourself to mass contact with people, and returning home, just as health, civil protection, and state security forces do when they do their job. With the difference that these groups do have protection equipment, and cabin crews do not. This discrimination is unacceptable and must be resolved by the airlines or, failing that, by the Spanish Government, with the greatest possible urgency. We are already late, very late in protecting the cabin crews.

Added to this reasonable fear is our concern over massive employment regulations being announced by airlines. I want to assure you that the fellow delegates from each of the sections of the union work tirelessly to defend our jobs and our profession, and to achieve that goal we rely on the constant support from our lawyers. We are putting all our efforts, in every airline in which SITCPLA has representation, so that the cabin crew come out of this crisis in the best possible way, although it should be noted that Temporary Jobs Regulations (ERTE in Spanish) due to force majeure do not necessarily go through a table of negotiation, and that the legal and contract conditions in this regard vary from one company to another.

I also want to assure you that we will continue working, as we have done so far, at all possible levels of the Spanish Administration, in the European Union, and with the cabin crew unions grouped in the ETF to give a global response to a threat equally global.

Every day we fly, we are able to form a perfectly synchronized team in a matter of minutes, and we are trained to deal with emergencies. I am sure that we will also know how to overcome the current emergency situation that we are facing, and that we will all succeed together to continue facing the challenges that destiny has in store for us.

I send you a hug.

Monique Duthiers

SITCPLA - President