



Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With 200 member organisations active in 40 European countries, representing over 1,700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.

October 2025

Solidarity Coalition for Levies on Premium Flyers

To: Minister for Finance

Copy: Ministers responsible for Climate and Transport

Dear Minister,

We are writing to invite you to join the Solidarity Coalition for Levies on Premium Flyers, launched in June during the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville, Spain).

France, Kenya, Barbados, Spain, Somalia, Benin, Sierra Leone, Djibouti and Antigua & Barbuda have already joined this coalition to work on a better contribution of the aviation sector to fair transitions and resilience, with a special focus on premium flyers. The initiative envisions directing all or part of the revenues into resilient investments and fair transitions, which would provide a new source of revenue for Europe but also for international solidarity. The European Commission is providing technical support.

Within the EU, approaches to aviation taxation vary widely. Some Member States levy flight ticket taxes; others do not. Among those that do, significant disparities remain - leaving room for significant harmonisation, and thereby simplification, across the EU:

- Some differentiate by flight distance, but in inconsistent ways.
- Some apply higher rates to business and first-class tickets, while others use a uniform rate, undermining equity.
- Some include business aircraft and private jets, while others exempt them, allowing the wealthiest and most polluting travellers to avoid taxation.
- Rates range from as little as €2 per ticket to several hundred euros for business aircraft.

We recognise that national circumstances such as island status, limited low-carbon transport alternatives, or tourism-dependent economies, require flexibility. However, there is clear scope for progress towards more coherent, fair and simple taxation of first- and business-class tickets and private jets. Such discrepancies do not offer a level playing field, and provide travellers, companies and airports in Europe with contradicting signals. At a time when climate disasters like floods, wildfires, and heatwaves place increasing strain on public budgets and the economy, those engaging in luxury, high-pollution travel should pay their fair share. Levies on premium flyers will not place a burden on the vast majority of EU travellers who fly economy, while depending on their design, they could generate between €45 and €80 bn annually on an EU-level (see simulator here: <https://solidaritylevies.org/simulator/>).

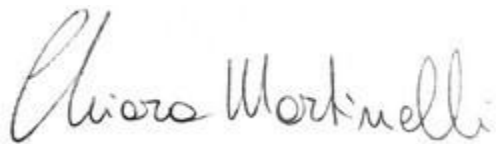
We therefore urge you to join the Solidarity Coalition for Levies on Premium Flyers without delay. Membership will enable greater exchange of best practices, systematic data collection, and agreement on minimum standards to support effective national-level taxation of premium flights and private jets.

We also draw your attention to an important related initiative launched in Seville: the Platform of Action on Taxing the Super-Rich. This effort aims to unite countries committed to advancing taxation of extreme wealth, an essential step to finance the just green transition, strengthen social inclusion, and advance cohesion and industrial policy, while fulfilling international cooperation commitments.

These initiatives should be driven forward in complement to a strong UN Convention on International Tax Cooperation. The EU should constructively engage in and support the negotiations. The next step for the EU tax negotiators in Nairobi (10-19 November 2025) is to develop and adopt concrete commitments and mechanisms to deliver on the tax conventions' sustainable development mandate and establish the link to climate goals and policies.

We look forward to your leadership in these critical initiatives.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Chiara Martinelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chiara" being more prominent than the last name "Martinelli".

Chiara Martinelli, Director, Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe