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Flexing the slot regime: airport slot coordination in light of evolving market realities: a regulatory perspective

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PROPOSITIONS

RELATING TO THE DISSERTATION 'FLEXING THE SLOT REGIME' BY LISANNE VAN HOUTEN

Related to the contents of the dissertation

1. Quality-of-life factors increasingly influence the economic development of air transport, including slot allocation.
2. It is questionable whether the WASG guidelines and prime objectives for the declaration, allocation and use of slots at super-congested airports are an adequate reflection of consumer needs and overall socio-economic value.
3. The prime objective of slot coordination included in the WASG should be extended to state that slot coordination strives for a better balance between the legitimate interests of all stakeholders involved, *inter alia*, regulators, airports, incumbent and new entrant airlines, local residents and citizens.
4. If anything, the COVID-19 pandemic occurring in 2020-2021 has shown that the resilience of the EU Slot Regulation to quickly and effectively respond to the needs of the market under extraordinary circumstances such as a significant drop in demand for air services should be improved.
5. Outside the EU/EEA, States have more leeway to influence coordination decisions because of the absence of any international and/or regional binding rules for slot coordination.
6. At super-congested airports where the effects of a strict application of the new entrant rule would frustrate other objectives of the slot rules, such as the most optimal use of scarce airport capacity, the application of a broader set of rules governing new entrants could be considered.
7. In order to get the most out of existing airport capacity and depending on the specifications of airport capacity limits in legislation, it may be helpful to allocate more slots than specified in the capacity declaration where coordinators would be able to predict that a certain share of slots would not be used ('overbooking').
8. It is suggested to let States decide for themselves whether or not they wish to permit a secondary slot market – subject to clear rules and conditions to prevent the identified risks associated with the practice – to fit within their local market circumstances in terms of airport access and airport functions.
9. Slot earmarking, a practice where slots are essentially 'labelled' by the coordinator for a certain use, would enable slot coordinators to monitor and enforce the 'proper' use of slots if slots are used contrary to any conditions imposed upon initial allocation.

Not related to the contents of the dissertation

10. If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine, it's lethal.
11. In a world where you can be anything, be kind.
12. The simultaneous development and delivery of a PhD thesis and of a new human being positively and substantially mark the life of the deliverer.