Ministerie van Financiën

> Return address POSTBUS 20201 2500 EE 'S-GRAVENHAGE

Air France-KLM Group
Attn. Ms. Florence Parly and Mr. Benjamin Smith
7, Rue du Cirque
75008 Paris
France

Ministry of Finance
The General Treasury
Korte Voorhout 7
2511 CW 'S-GRAVENHAGE

Our reference
2026-0000131841

Date April 24, 2026
Subject The Dutch government's commitment to the future of the national aviation sector

Dear Ms. Parly, dear Mr. Smith,

The Dutch government wishes to clarify its intentions and policy direction regarding the aviation sector in the Netherlands, recognizing the sector's importance to the Dutch economy. The hub function of Schiphol is crucial for our economy, and the strength of KLM's network is an essential requirement for maintaining international connectivity. At the same time, the transition to cleaner, more sustainable aircraft is necessary in light of future developments. Achieving these goals requires concerted action not only from the aviation sector itself, but also demands predictable and transparent government policy to provide the sector with a stable and clear framework for the years ahead.

Importance of international connectivity

The Netherlands is an open economy that relies on strong international connectivity. Schiphol's hub function, together with KLM's global network, is essential for maintaining international connections, supporting the business climate and the capacity for economic growth of the Netherlands. High connectivity contributes to a favorable business climate and makes the country attractive for businesses to establish themselves in. Schiphol enables the creation of high-quality jobs throughout the Netherlands, in addition to employment and economic activity in its immediate surroundings. This is also highlighted in the Wennink report: *'The roadmap to future prosperity'*. For the connectivity of Schiphol, KLM's intercontinental destination network is key. KLM's hub-and-spoke network is crucial for the international connectivity of the Netherlands.

The government underlines the strategic importance of the hub function and KLM's network, and commits itself to sustainably safeguard it. The government's shareholding in Schiphol is not aimed at generating financial returns, but rather at safeguarding the public interest of connectivity. Retaining strong main ports, including Schiphol, therefore forms part of the Ministerial Taskforce on Future Prosperity and Business Climate. This taskforce is one of the six newly established taskforces aimed at accelerating the resolution of structural problems.

Reducing the impact on the living environment

While aviation makes an indispensable contribution to the Netherlands' connectivity, it also has an impact on the climate and the living environment. The

government is restoring balance. In recent years, numerous legal cases concerning Schiphol have been brought against the government, several of which are still ongoing. The government is committed to restore the legal framework for Schiphol in order to provide legal protection for local residents and the aviation sector, as well as to take a significant step towards reducing noise pollution around the airport.

The government aims to develop the aviation sector in a future-proof manner, balancing international connectivity and economic value with sustainability and improvements in quality of life. Operating cleaner and more sustainable aircraft at Schiphol contribute greatly to a more sustainable environment and is key for the aviation sector's license to operate in the Netherlands. Technological innovation will shape how the aviation industry could grow. Future expansion must balance economic benefits with environmental concerns. The currently proposed Schiphol Airport Traffic Decree embodies this approach.

Strengthening competitiveness

The government sees that the sector is facing challenges due to rising costs, geopolitical shifts, and policy developments. As the home carrier, KLM has limited available alternatives. The government expects Air France-KLM and KLM to take primary responsibility for bolstering their competitiveness through internal cost management, revenue optimization, efficient capacity deployment and sustainable fleet initiatives.

At the same time, the government recognizes the external challenges that Air France-KLM and KLM face. To strengthen competitiveness of Dutch aviation, the government – through the Ministries of Finance, Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, and Infrastructure and Water Management – is working on a coherent and predictable framework for the sector. This approach aims to provide stability and reinforce conditions for a resilient, future-proof sector. The government is focusing on:

Fostering a favorable economic climate

- Opening Lelystad Airport, in accordance with the coalition agreement.
- Strengthening Schiphol's competitiveness. The government will pay careful attention to Schiphol' investment program, but essential investments must not be postponed.
- Evaluating potential improvements to Schiphol airport operations decree before the next tariff period, starting April 1, 2028.
- Intensifying the Franco-Dutch cooperation in the aviation manufacturing industry.
- Installation of a Ministerial Taskforce on Future Prosperity and Business Climate.

Ministry of Finance
The General Treasury

Date
April 24, 2026

Our reference
2026-0000131841

Ensuring business stability for the aviation sector

- Establishing a stable legal framework for Schiphol by concluding the process of obtaining a nature permit and laying down a new and stable airport traffic decision for the long term.
- Committing to enhancing a level playing field at a European level, for example by providing full support for an EU-wide aviation tax.
- No further plans to amend the national aviation tax, following the introduction of the differentiated aviation tax in 2027. Furthermore, no intention to introduce a transfer tax.

Supporting sustainable aviation

- Committing €150 million from the Climate Fund for the production of e-fuels.
- Promoting the production of sustainable fuels in the Netherlands, through targeted stimulation of investment, innovation, and sector collaboration.

The government will address these subjects coherently, aiming to ensure a stable, consistent, and favorable economic climate for the Dutch aviation sector. As mentioned above, the government recognizes the steep movement of rising airport charges at Schiphol and will maintain a close dialogue with Schiphol regarding operational efficiency, the investment program and the overall development of airport charges. The government wants Schiphol to maintain its competitiveness within Europe. At the same time, the government underlines the need to replace and modernize outdated buildings and infrastructure. Due to a significant period of underinvestment, airport charges at Schiphol have been low in the past years. A high-quality and future-proof hub airport is important for KLM's operations and for the connectivity of the Netherlands.

Preserving KLM's network and position

As a shareholder of Air France-KLM and KLM, the government considers it important that strategic decisions within Air France-KLM, particularly those concerning fleet deployment and the network planning, preserve the hub function of Schiphol. This is vital not only for the Netherlands but also for Air France-KLM which run profitable operations from Schiphol. Decisions of Air France-KLM leading to a structural reduction of the network quality at Schiphol, impacting the international connectivity of the Netherlands, are highly undesirable.

Ministry of Finance
The General Treasury

Date
April 24, 2026

Our reference
2026-0000131841

We value the strong relationship between France and the Netherlands. The government places great importance on working together with Air France-KLM, KLM, Schiphol and other stakeholders in the aviation sector, to ensure alignment and a strong, future-proof Dutch aviation sector in which KLM plays a key role.

Yours sincerely,

The Minister of Finance,

Persoonsgegevens

E. Heinen

The Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management,

Persoonsgegevens

V.P.G. Karremans

The Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate,

Persoonsgegevens

H.G. Herbert