Turkey

COVID Crisis/Economy: Turkey ranks 21st worldwide in terms of COVID deaths. Impact on the economy is somewhat contained with an expected GDP decrease in 2020 of -2.8% and unemployment actually reducing.

Traffic: Traffic stayed below -90% of 2019 levels in April and May reaching -95% mid-April. In June it started and gradual and steady recovery which, contrary to other European countries, continued in September peaking on 25 September with 1,971 flights, only to stabilize in October at around -45%. Overall, in terms of traffic loss, Turkey ranks 6th in Europe with -0.49M flights and -99M passengers lost.

Airports: IGA Istanbul is the top airport in Turkey with 520 average movements per day over the last week (-55% compared to last year), followed by Istanbul SG (-34%) overtaking Antalya as second top airport. In the same week, Istanbul Ataturk experienced an increase of +35% due mostly to business aviation.

Aircraft Operators: Turkish remains the top airline operating at -50% last week, with Pegasus operating at -30% and SunExpress at -48%. The three airlines ramped up operations as of 1 June. Turkish and Pegasus continued increasing through July and August stabilizing at end-of-August levels. SunExpress stabilized earlier at end-of-June levels.

Market segments: All cargo significantly increased (~40% in May/June). Business aviation was affected but recovered steadily (~24% in September). The other segments were strongly hit and are recovering slowly.

Traffic flows: Domestic flows remain the top flows (-29% over 2019). Russia replaces Germany (now third) as second main flow. Top non-ECAC flows are with Europe (non-ECAC), Middle-East and Asia-Pacific.
COVID-19 Impact on EUROCONTROL Member States
EUROCONTROL Briefing

Data Sources:
1 DHMI
2 Oxford Economics (16 October 2020)
3 TURKSTAT
4 John Hopkins University

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