11th Florence Intermodal Forum

Aviation and Multimodal Digital Mobility Services in the EU

10 February, 2023

Sala Europa - Villa Schifanoia, Via Boccaccio 121 - Florence

Organised by Transport Area of the Florence School of Regulation (FSR-Transport), RSCAS, European University Institute in collaboration with European Commission – DG MOVE

Introduction

Multimodal digital mobility services (MDMS) are instrumental to fostering multimodality as they promote comparability, transparency, and the selling of products across operators and modes. MDMS stand to directly benefit passengers by helping them to navigate, access and compare an increasingly complex and diverse range of transport offerings. Services that support multimodal transport can also render transport more efficient and sustainable by improving the consumer access to broader variety of transport options.

As part of its Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (SSMS), published in 2020, the European Commission committed itself to assessing the need for regulatory action on rights and duties of multimodal digital service providers and to issuing a recommendation to ensure public service contracts do not hamper data sharing and support the development of multimodal ticketing services, together with an initiative on ticketing (Action 37).

In view of this, a public stakeholder consultation for the implementation of MDMS was carried out, and a legislative proposal to advance MDMS is planned for 2023. This Commission initiative will seek to implement Action 37 of the SSMS and address existing challenges for MDMS services. The latter will focus on ticketing, booking and payment services by addressing a number of market-related problems, namely potential resistance by some transport service providers to provide access to all their data to other actors (much more present in rail) and potential discriminatory practices by online intermediaries in access to their services. Remedies in the form of access regulation can be considered, but what kind of access obligations? What lessons might be learnt from horizontal regulation (particularly the Digital Markets Act and the Data Regulations): asymmetric regulation, FRAND access conditions? Whether the liberalisation and competition of the EU Aviation Market necessitates a lighter form of regulation?

Against this backdrop, the 11th Florence Intermodal Forum will bring together stakeholders representing aviation policymakers, airlines, travel intermediaries, meta-search companies, consumer organisations, and academics, among others, for an aviation-focused discussion on the following three critical issues:

1. FRAND conditions: What are the necessary and proportionate FRAND conditions in the aviation sector? Who decides what is FRAND?
2. Is it necessary to regulate data sharing on airlines to better integrate them in MDMS? What kind of obligation? On which airlines?
3. What potential obligations should be considered for online intermediaries selling or relinking to air mobility products? Which intermediaries should be regulated?

Programme

10 February

08:45 - 09:00   *Welcome coffee*

09:00 - 09:20   Setting the scene

Juan Montero | European University Institute
Filip Cornelis | DG MOVE, European Commission

Session A

09:20 – 10:00   EC presentation on the upcoming legislative proposal on MDMS (focus on aviation). Where are we? What issues are open? Which measures and options are contemplated?

Victoire Champenois | DG MOVE, European Commission

Stakeholder reactions and open discussion

10:00 -10:15   *Coffee break*

Session B

10:15 – 11:45   Academic discussion: lessons from DMA/DSA – What kind of access regulation? FRAND conditions? Who defines what is FRAND?

Juan Montero | European University Institute
Robin Loos | BEUC – The European Consumer Organisation
Emmanuel Mounier | eu travel tech

Q&A and open discussion

11:45 – 12:00   *Coffee break*

Session C

12:00 – 13:30   How to ensure access to travel data in the aviation sector? Who should be under compulsory data exchange? Only very large air service providers, all air service providers, maybe gradually? What data should be exchanges? What kind of access obligations?

Guillaume Teissonniere | eDreams ODIGEO
Alexander Ernert | Trainline
Stephane Ormand | Air France – KLM
Rosa Pastena | Ryanair

Q&A and open discussion

13:30 – 14:30   *Lunch break*

14:30 - 15:45   How to ensure access to online intermediaries' services? What intermediaries should be regulated? B2B or B2C, what is the difference? Very large platforms, what threshold? Aviation specific or all transport platforms? What kind of access obligations (non-discriminatory access, neutral display, transparency, guarantees on reliability)?

Sabine Buchner | Lufthansa Group
Christian Skaug | Widerøe
Christian Moeller | European Travel Agents' & Tour Operators' Association
Koen Baekelandt | Amadeus

Q&A and open discussion

15:45 – 16:15   Synthesis and concluding remarks

Matthias Finger | European University Institute
Juan Montero | European University Institute
Filip Cornelis | DG MOVE, European Commission