

SA.57153 – Slot release procedure Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are the requirements for applicants to apply for slots through the general slot allocation procedure, as well as through the remedy process?

Applicants are required to exhaust all reasonable efforts to obtain the necessary slots to operate the base concerned through the general slot allocation procedure for the first season they are applying for (i.e. Summer 2023 IATA Season). However, the transfer of the Summer and Winter slot package should be made in one go, should the successful applicant not obtain all the requested Summer slots through the general slot allocation procedure for Summer 2023 IATA Season. In other terms, Winter and Summer slots will be divested together following the general slot allocation procedure for Summer 2023 IATA Season (the first IATA season during which the successful applicant would have requested and not obtained the slots), without any condition attached to the general slot allocation procedure for the next scheduling period.

Which airlines are allowed to apply for the remedy slots? Who qualifies to be a new based carrier?

An air carrier is considered as a new entrant within the meaning of the Commitments, if it did not have a base at the airport for which it requests the slots during the Winter 2019/2020 IATA Season (i.e. no aircraft kept overnight at the airport during the Winter 2019/2020 IATA Season).

Up until three IATA seasons of Art. 8(2), second indent, of the Slot Regulation (the "use-it-or-lose-it rule") has applied, the slots can only be divested to one new entrant for the establishment of a new base at respectively FRA or MUC.

Following three IATA seasons when the "use-it-or-lose-it" rule has been reinstated in full, if the slots are still available, applicants who wish to expand their existing base at FRA or MUC may also apply for the slots.

What requirements are there for the use of slots as a base operator?

The applicant should have the intention to establish a base of at least four aircraft for a new entrant or expand its base for a based carrier at FRA and/or MUC. The Commission will assess the operational and financial credibility of the business plan submitted by the applicant. To be approved, an applicant will have to demonstrate the operational and financial credibility of the business plan for its new or expanded FRA and/or MUC base. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the commitment to base aircraft at FRA and/or MUC using the remedy slots is not a condition for their effective transfer or for their use imposed on the purchaser after its approval. In other terms, once the purchaser is approved, the remedy slots are transferred unconditionally and the remedy taker can use them freely.

Is there a minimum price the applicant is obliged to submit as a part of its bid?

An applicant must offer a price for the slots and the assets to allow for a transfer of those slots that it requests through the remedy process. However, the divestment of the business package should be at no minimum price. Therefore, there is no minimum price an applicant has to bid.