

March 23, 2020

Mr. Jaco Stremmer
Director Civil Aviation
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Works
Rijnstraat 8
2515 XP The Hague
The Netherlands
Via E-mail: Jaco.stremmer@minienw.nl

Mr. Ingo Hosper
Senior Policy Advisor
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
2594 AC The Hague
The Netherlands
Via E-mail: i.g.hospers@minezk.nl

Dear Mr. Stremmer and Mr. Hosper,

The Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging - SNMMI headquartered in Reston, Virginia, is an international nonprofit scientific and professional organization that promotes the science, technology and practical application of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. SNMMI strives to be a leader in unifying, advancing and optimizing molecular imaging, with an ultimate goal of improving human health. With 15,000 members worldwide, SNMMI represents nuclear and molecular imaging professionals, all of whom are committed to the advancement of the field.

The United States manufacturers rely on European produced radioactive raw material to produce their radiopharmaceuticals for use in nuclear medicine procedures in the U.S. They are struggling to keep transport routes open for radioactive raw material from Europe into the U.S. Under normal circumstances they ship Mo-99, Xe-133 and other radioactive raw materials from Europe to the U.S. using passenger carrying planes. As the airlines have reduced the number of passenger flights from Europe, as a result of COVID-19, it has been more difficult for them to make these shipments. As these flights have been reduced, these shipments have been moving to cargo planes and are facing tremendous competition on these cargo flights with other freight coming across the Atlantic.

KLM has not carried radioactive material out of Schiphol for many years. If they were to start handling radioactive material during this COVID-19 crises, it would help ensure a reliable supply of radioactive raw material for the U.S. Curium's Mo-99 production facility in Petten is one hour from Schiphol, and IRE in Fleures is two hours away. KLM moving radioactive material from Schiphol would be a tremendous help to the U.S. manufacturers and help ensure U.S. patient access to important radiopharmaceuticals. Other companies such as E&Z and AAA would also benefit from KLM flights out of Schiphol.

We encourage the Ministry to urge KLM to start carrying radioactive material again, which would allow direct shipments from Schiphol to the U.S. This would have a significant benefit for the nuclear medicine physicians in the U.S., and ensure that patients get access to much needed radiopharmaceuticals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vasken Dilsizian, MD
President, SNMMI

cc: U.S. Ambassador Peter Hoekstra