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Statement

The Portuguese Supreme Court confirms payment of subsidies and unpaid hours to Ryanair Cabin Crew

The Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice (STJ) issued a decision in the labor claims case filed by nine Ryanair cabin crew members who are SNPVAC members on May 15, 2025.

The Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice (STJ) has finally confirmed the obligation to pay holiday and Christmas allowances, as well as other remuneration components, like unpaid leave that the company forced.

Additionally, it has been established that the crew members are entitled to payment for the hours flown and worked in March 2020, during a time of extreme vulnerability and uncertainty for the employees, even though the company failed to do so.

This court decision demonstrates the clear requirement that Portuguese law be applied to cabin crews' contracts on Portuguese habitual place of work (home base/operational base), as acknowledged by the Portuguese courts in dozens of cases filed by the SNPVAC.

Ryanair's methodology, dividing the same annual amount paid from 12 to 14 months, was once again struck down, with the Supreme Court of Justice (STJ) recognizing that "the rules of Portuguese law, especially for the purposes of applying Article 8(1) of the Rome I Regulation, are inderogable, as are those relating to the very existence of a vacation allowance and a Christmas allowance.

EurECCA represents, protects and develops the rights and needs of all cabin crew all over Europe.

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About EurECCA: established in Brussels in 2014, the European Cabin Crew Association, EurECCA, represents, protects and develops the rights and needs of cabin crew all over Europe. It is composed of cabin crew unions from European Union Member States as well as accession and bordering states and represents some 23,000 cabin crew accounting for 60% of all organized cabin crew in Europe. EurECCA has no political connections.

EurECCA's work is around Cabin Crew working conditions, wages, social protection and health and safety at work.

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