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Top airline to put Brexit clause into ticket sales for summer 2019

London.—Irish budget airline Ryanair will put a Brexit “clause” into ticket sales for summer 2019, warning customers that their tickets will not be valid if the issue of aviation regulation after Britain’s departure from the EU remains unresolved.

Flying rights to, from and within the European Union, as well as between the United States and Britain, are currently covered by EU-wide “Open Skies” agreements, but this arrangement is jeopardised by Brexit.

There is no fallback option for aviation if Britain leaves the EU without a deal, and Ryanair’s chief marketing officer said yesterday that airlines had no clarity how aviation will be regulated after Britain’s scheduled departure at the end of March 2019.

“We’ll announce our (2019) summer schedule soon enough... and there’ll be a term and condition



Airlines prepare for Britain to leave European Union.

that this is subject to the regulatory environment allowing this flight to take place,” Kenny Jacobs told reporters, adding that the tickets would go on sale in September.

Customers will be refunded if the clause is exercised.

“We don’t see a regulatory solution yet... If in the meantime between now and September, there’s

a regulatory solution found, then those tickets will be sold as normal.”

Airlines have said they need a new bilateral deal between Britain and Europe by September or October to replace the EU’s “Open Skies” regime, which allows EU airlines to fly wherever they wish within the European Union bloc.

“Our business is truth” - China editor tells BBC to open up on women’s pay

London.—The BBC is failing to live up to its own editorial mission to report the truth by denying it has a problem with gender discrimination on pay, its former China editor Carrie Gracie told the British parliament’s media committee yesterday.

Gracie quit her post earlier this month in protest at the discrepancy between her pay and that of male counterparts, going public with her grievances to try to jolt the public broadcaster into addressing unequal pay.

“Our business is truth,” an emotional Gracie told the committee of lawmakers, who are conducting an investigation into BBC pay. “If we’re not prepared to look at ourselves honestly, how can we be trusted to look at anything else in our reporting honestly?”

Gracie’s revolt laid bare tensions that had been simmering within the BBC since it was forced last July to name its best paid on-air staff and disclose their pay bands, revealing that two-thirds of them were men of whom several were far better paid than female peers.



A royal wave in Sweden

Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge greet children at Matteusskolan School in Stockholm yesterday.