The Endless Strike: Avianca and the 700 Angry Pilots

Group 8 Liliana Ávila Alexandra Raymaekers Emily Webb







29.5 Million Passengers



25 Destinations in Colombia



6,000 Flights per Week



21,000 Employees



61 % Market Share in Colombia

















What is Happening?



Approx. 700 pilots went on strike on September 20th

 \rightarrow More than 50% of pilots!

 \rightarrow The ACDAC Union is asking for:



60% increase of wages



Reduction of weekly working hours



Payment of 70% of their taxes



What's the Damage?

→ Implications of the strike so far (as of 26th September)



1,500 Flights Cancelled



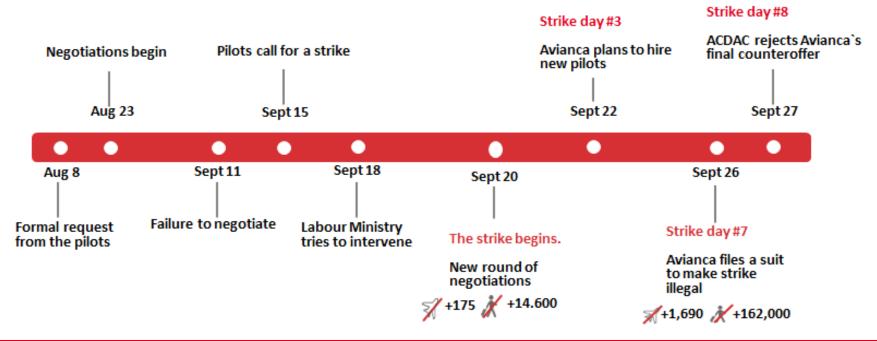
40% *Reduction of Operations*



146,000 Passengers Affected



Timeline of Events





26th of September, Bogota, Colombia: the last meeting



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Take into account...

- Negotiations are off the table
- The strike can legally last for **up to 60 days**
- Transportation, as an essential public service, has to be guaranteed according to the law

- Upcoming holiday on October 9th : high season
- Losing approximately USD 2.5 million per day
- Your clients are **upset**!





You are part of the CEO's crisis management unit...





Managerial Questions

What solutions or strategies would you recommend in order to manage the crisis going forward?

How can these solutions minimise the damage to the various stakeholders involved?





1 Days of strike!



What Did They Actually Do?



The Management Strategy





Contingency Plan

Transparency & Support Strategy

- Waiver of penalty for flight changes and refunds to travellers
- Customer service support: **shift reinforcement** of 200 employees
- Maintenance technician team strengthened
- Interdisciplinary team to monitor operations and impact of strike
- Hire foreign pilots
- → Satisfy the Customers
 - → Retain Trust





Corporate Communications

- Consistent message
- Advocacy strategy: change the opinion of stakeholders
- **Public information model**: media relations. E.g. Press releases, press conferences
- Social media campaigns: direct communications & corporate videos

→ Increase Government and General Public Support

 \rightarrow Retain and Build Credibility



Leverage Financial Strengths

- Strong financial position
- Brand architecture: parent company is

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- Give customers a high quality service
 - → Exploit all Capabilities
 - → Sustain Market Position

STRATEGIC N@RTH

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CEO Message

Dear Shareholders,

This is the right moment to look back at the year that just ended, to perform an evaluation of our performance, our operations, our achievements and the challenges we came across the last quarter and the full year 2017.

Avianca achieved solid results across key operational and profitability metrics in 2017 despite the challenges we faced during the end of third quarter, as well as the fourth quarter of this year. 2017 could have been probably the best year of the Company in our almost 100 years, but because of the turbulences we came across during the 4Q, we were short on this goal. Nevertheless, this proves that we have placed the right strategy and the right resources to achieve the next level of performance. Avianca's successful strategy to address the ACDAC (minority plicts union) illegal strike underscored our ability to effectively mitigate the strike's impact on our customers and on our value proposition, maintaining the premium quality service for which we are known while protecting the financial integrity of the company, as well as working very hard towards the our customers, center of our strategy.

I'm also pleased to note that on November 29, 2017, Avianca Holdings and Kingsland Holdings Ltd., Avianca's minority shareholders, agreed to withdraw our respective lawsuits. We welcome this decision as it allows us to better focus on our strategic priorities for the future ahead.





Key Learnings

Work together: Call for unity internally to maintain strong identity

Stay consistent no matter what: one message

Take risks and do whatever it takes to contain the crisis

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What do you think?

Could Avianca's strategy be replicated in other countries, in Europe, for example?

In the long-term, what could be the consequences for the organisation?







