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Showdown for Stelios and Easyjet chiefs

EASYJET'S bosses are on course for a showdown with founder [Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou](#).

Following a row over the cost of new planes, Haji-Ioannou is trying to oust chief executive Johan Lundgren and chairman John Barton at an extraordinary shareholder meeting on May 22.

The 53-year-old tycoon has branded those at the top of the company 'scoundrels' over their handling of an order for aircraft placed with Airbus, which is set to cost £4.5bn.

Haji-Ioannou says the deal will put Easyjet at risk of running out of money during the

by **Matt Oliver**

coronavirus crisis and has called for it to be scrapped. Yesterday Easyjet confirmed the shareholder meeting – which could also see finance chief Andrew Findlay sacked from the board – would go ahead.

Haji-Ioannou's move was criticised as an 'unnecessary distraction' by Barton, who claimed that scrapping the Airbus contract was not in the company's best interests.

He said removing the chairman, chief exec-

utive and chief financial officer from the board 'would be extremely damaging'.

However, Greek-born Haji-Ioannou likened Barton and Lundgren to 'Airbus' chief marketing officer'. 'I hope the second job pays better than the first, because they will be losing that one pretty soon,' he added. 'The "scoundrels" have not said how they can save Easyjet from bankruptcy and keep paying Airbus.'

Easyjet claimed it has enough cash to survive a 'prolonged' grounding of its fleet after it furloughed staff.