

# Don't be turkeys, says Easyjet board

**Robert Lea**

The board of Easyjet has warned investors they will be like turkeys voting for Christmas if they follow [Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou](#), the airline's founder and 34 per cent shareholder, in voting to sack the company's chairman, chief executive and finance director.

A general meeting of the company has been set for May 22 to vote on a resolution to remove John Barton, Johan Lundgren and Andrew Findlay from the Easyjet

board, along with Andreas Bierwirth, a non-executive director.

Sir Stelios called the meeting after a row with the board over its plan to take £600million of government loans and state support for furloughed workers while being committed to a multibillion-pound order for new Airbus jets.

Mr Barton, 75, a former City insurance broker who has been the airline's chairman for seven years, urged shareholders speaking for the other 66 per cent of Easyjet shares to vote against Sir Stelios.

He called the founder's gambit "an unnecessary distraction at a time when the airline industry is facing unprecedented challenge. Removing four directors from the board, including the chairman, chief executive and chief financial officer, would be extremely damaging and destabilising at this critical time."

Sir Stelios, 53, said: "The scoundrels have not said how they can save Easyjet from bankruptcy and keep paying Airbus. Cancelling the Airbus contract is the only chance we have to save Easyjet."

