



EUROPEAN CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE EUROPÉENNE DE L'AVIATION CIVILE

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PRESS RELEASE

IMPROVING THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE – COMPETITION OR REGULATION ?

EIGHTH ECAC/EU DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT INDUSTRY

London, 31 May 2011 — Some 150 representatives from the 44 Member States of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC), the European Commission, and leading personalities from the aviation industry gather today and tomorrow in London for the eighth ECAC/EU Dialogue with the European air transport industry, hosted by the United Kingdom Department for Transport, and placed under the aegis of Mr Jonathan Moor, Director General for Civil Aviation, Department for Transport, United Kingdom, and ECAC Focal Point for Economic matters.

The theme of this major event is "Improving the Passenger Experience – Competition or Regulation?" Cost effective, competitive services that benefit passengers and help to drive the European economy are the ultimate objective of industry and regulators alike. However, a legitimate question remains whether the current balance of deregulation in the market, regulation of consumer protection, and competition between service providers is the right one to deliver the optimum passenger experience.

Mr Catalin Radu, President of ECAC and Director General of Civil Aviation for Romania, the Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond, UK Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Henrik Hololei, Head of Cabinet of Vice-President Siim Kallas, European Commission will open the event. The Secretary General of ICAO Mr Raymond Benjamin will be represented by Mr Luis Fonseca de Almeida, Director of the ICAO EUR/NAT Office, who will deliver the keynote address.

In moderator-led sessions, the Dialogue will explore five key questions, first on the podium and then through open discussion. "How can passenger expectations be met?" "Is there too much - or not enough - regulation of passenger rights?" "How can more efficient border controls improve the end-to-end journey?" "Can innovation help ease the struggle through security?" "Where does the balance lie between regulation and competitive freedom in securing the best possible passenger experience?" The topicality of the questions together with the prominence of the speakers promise thought-provoking and lively discussions.

The following speakers will participate in the Dialogue:

Willie Walsh, Chief Executive, International Airlines Group (IAG)

Ad Rutten, Executive Vice-President and COO Schiphol Group, President ACI EUROPE

Richard Quest, Anchor and Aviation Correspondent, CCN

David McMillan, Director General, EUROCONTROL

Dan Michaels, European Aerospace and Aviation Editor, Wall Street Journal

Marjeta Jager, Director for General Policy, DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission

Michael O'Leary, Chief Executive, Ryanair

Christopher Irwin, Vice-President, European Passengers' Federation
Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, Secretary General, Association of European Airlines
Gert Versluis, Programme Director, Identity Management and Immigration, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Netherlands
Carlos Madeira, Vice-President, ANA Aeroportos de Portugal
Tony Bunyan, Director, Statewatch
Frank Durinckx, Director General of Civil Aviation, Belgium, and ECAC Focal Point for Facilitation and Security
Colin Matthews, Chief Executive Officer, BAA Airports Limited
Peter Schollmann, Chief Operating Officer, Securitas Aviation Europe
Emmanuel Mounier, President and CEO, Morpho Detection International, Inc
Peter Andres, Vice President Corporate Security, Deutsche Lufthansa AG
Maté Gergely, Director General of Civil Aviation, Hungary
Richard Deakin, Chief Executive Officer, NATS, United Kingdom
Stefano Paleari, Scientific Director, International Center for Competitiveness Studies in the Aviation Industry (ICCSAI)
Matthew Baldwin, Director of Air Transport, DG Mobility and Transport, European Commission
Kyran Hanks, Director of Strategy and Regulation, Gatwick Airport

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NOTE TO EDITORS

ECAC, the European Civil Aviation Conference was founded as an intergovernmental organisation in 1955. ECAC's mission is the promotion of the continued development of a safe, efficient and sustainable European air transport system. It seeks to harmonise civil aviation policies and practices amongst its Member States and, at the same time, promote understanding on policy matters between its Member States and other parts of the world. ECAC's long-established expertise in aviation matters, pan-European membership and close liaison with the International Civil Aviation Organization enable it to serve as a unique European forum for discussion of every major civil aviation topic. It enjoys active co-operation with its sister organisations, with the European Commission, EASA and EUROCONTROL. It also has particularly valuable links with organisations representing all parts of the air transport industry.

ECAC has 44 Member States: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.