



PRESS RELEASE

ELFAA deplores desperate 11th hour attempt to derail EU ETS

Not in the name of ELFAA

4 November 2011, Brussels – The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) deplores the latest desperate attempt to thwart the inclusion of aviation in the EU’s emissions trading scheme (EU ETS) by the submission of a General Declaration to this week’s ICAO General Assembly.

ICAO acknowledges that market-based mechanisms (MBM) have a role to play in tackling aviation’s CO₂ emissions and that emissions trading is the most effective of these. Unfortunately ICAO has failed to secure agreement to a global scheme, prompting the European Union to lead the way with the inclusion of aviation in EU ETS from 2012.

ELFAA has lent its consistent support to EU ETS, subject to the important proviso that it be environmentally effective.

80% of EU aviation’s CO₂ emissions results from long distance flights, and it is therefore clear that such flights to and from the EU must also be included within the scope of EU ETS.

It is important that aviation contributes to tackling climate change, and EU ETS is clearly the best way to achieve this in Europe. By challenging EU ETS, ICAO and other carriers are making it easier for countries to justify “environmental” taxes on aviation.

The European Commission has rightly preferred EU ETS over all other options, including taxation, and views it as the MBM which will achieve the greatest environmental benefit at the lowest cost to society.

ELFAA therefore calls on governments to now withdraw existing and planned taxes on aviation, which punish consumers for no environmental pay-back.

Notes to the editor:

ELFAA represents the fastest-growing European airline sector. Its members carry over 180 million passengers a year and account for over 43% of scheduled intra-European traffic.

Today, ELFAA comprises 9 airline members which include: easyJet, Flybe, Jet2.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, SverigeFlyg, transavia.com, vueling and Wizz Air.

ELFAA’s primary objective is to ensure that European policy and legislation promote free and equal competition to enable the continued growth and development of low fares into the future, thereby allowing a greater number of people to travel by air.



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