



## PRESS RELEASE

### **ELFAA: Commission proposal leaves door open to primary auctioning of historical slots**

**2 December 2011, Brussels – The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) notes with concern a reference in the Commission’s Airport Package to the possible future inclusion of the withdrawal and auctioning of historical slots.**

“This is extremely worrying, as it leaves the door open for a possible amendment which will permit the primary auctioning of grandfathered rights,” explained ELFAA Secretary General John Hanlon.

“This could be even more damaging than the Commission’s original misguided draft proposal for the primary auctioning of slots arising from “new” capacity which was widely opposed by airlines of all business models.”

While auctioning of slots resulting from “new” capacity appears to have been dropped in the Commission’s legislative proposal, the door is opened in the text to the possible future amendment of the Regulation to permit generalised auctioning, including confiscation of grandfathered slots.

As confirmed by the Commission’s consultant Steer Davies Gleave in their Impact Assessment of the options, legitimisation across the EU of the existing practice of the secondary trading of slots would address two thirds of the claimed capacity crunch, providing more relief than all the other options put together.

“There is no consumer benefit to be gained from auctioning of slots in whatever form” concluded John Hanlon. “ELFAA remains of the view that the existing Slot Regulation is perfectly adequate but requires more uniform enforcement across Europe and more active monitoring of that enforcement by the Commission.”

#### **Notes to the editors**

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.



# news

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