



## PRESS RELEASE

### ELFAA welcomes ECJ Judgment on EU ETS Directive

**21 December 2011, Brussels – The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) welcomes today’s judgment by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) that the inclusion of flights by non-EU carriers within the scope of the EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is compatible with international law.**

Since 80% of European aviation emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> originate from long distance flights to and from points outside the EU, environmental effectiveness necessarily requires inclusion of all flights to and from the EU, as per the Directive.

In light of this positive ECJ judgment of the legality of EU ETS, ELFAA again urges its colleagues in the industry to halt their resistance and lend their constructive support to the implementation of EU ETS from 01 January.

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. Airlines are not being forced to change behaviour but are rather incentivised to do so.

ELFAA airlines, for their part, deploy the newest and cleanest aircraft, and their high occupancy factor means they carry more passengers more efficiently, with less impact on the environment.

“With its inclusion in the EU ETS, aviation will more than cover its environmental costs. Government policy should recognise this and stop the spread of taxation of aviation, by cash-strapped governments, under the guise of environmental measures”, said ELFAA Secretary General John Hanlon.

#### **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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