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## **ELFAA welcomes EC official statement: all environmental taxes should be revoked upon inclusion of aviation in EU ETS**

**BRUSSELS, 16 April 2008** – ELFAA welcomes the statement by Olivier Onidi, EC Head of Unit, Internal Market, Air Transport Agreements and Multilateral Relations, at a recent industry gathering in Malta, that upon the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, all other environmental taxes on aviation should be dropped.

ELFAA has supported the inclusion of aviation in EU ETS, subject to the design of the scheme being such as to incentivise environmentally efficient behaviour and penalise the worst polluters.

ELFAA shares the Commission's concern, however, at the plethora of so-called "environmental" taxes being imposed by Member State Governments on aviation, independent of the Emissions Trading Scheme. In the UK, for example, current Air Passenger Duty generates sufficient revenue to offset aviation emissions more than fourfold.

Particular weaknesses of environmental taxation of aviation are that:

- (1) these taxes rarely relate to the actual environmental impact of particular airlines and
- (2) the refusal of governments, which levy it, to commit the proceeds from these taxes to environmental research to reduce aviation's impact of the environment.

ELFAA hopes that this statement by the Commission will discourage other Member States from imposing further unnecessary and unjustified "environmental" taxes.

### **NOTES TO THE EDITOR**

*ELFAA airline members include: clickair, easyJet, Flybe, Myair.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sky Europe, Sterling, Sverige Flyg, transavia.com, Wizz Air.*

*ELFAA members carried over 120 Million passengers in 2007, using a combined fleet of some 500 of the most technologically-advanced, environmentally-efficient aircraft.*

*Low Fares Airlines constitute some 30% of scheduled intra-European traffic.*

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