



FRIDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2008

## **ELFAA welcomes Belgian Government's decision to drop its plans for an air ticket tax**

**Brussels – 7 November.** The European Low Fares Airline Association - ELFAA welcomes today the decision of the Belgian Government to abandon plans to introduce a tax on air tickets. ELFAA had strongly opposed the proposed tax which was unjustified. ELFAA hopes that this fair-minded decision by the Belgian Government will cause the Dutch Government to drop its highly discriminatory tax on air tickets also.

Commenting on the decision, John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA said:

“This is a victory for passengers. A tax on air tickets would have been the wrong move at the wrong time. We congratulate the Belgian government for turning away from a proposal, which would take money from ordinary citizens. It would also have dealt a very punitive blow to the industry, which is already reeling from the combined shock of global economic downturn and volatility in fuel price.

Denmark has scrapped its flight tax last year while Sweden and now Belgium have abandoned their plans to introduce a tax. The UK is also reforming its tax to make it greener and fairer. We now call on The Netherlands to scrap the counter-productive holiday tax that was introduced on 1 July and on Ireland to abandon its tax plans.”

### **NOTES TO THE EDITOR:**

ELFAA airline members include: clickair, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Myair.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sky Europe, Sverige Flyg, transavia.com and Wizz Air.

ELFAA airline members will carry over 150 million passengers in 2008, using a combined fleet of some 500 of the most technologically-advanced, environmentally-efficient aircraft.

Low fares airlines currently account for over 35% of scheduled intra-European traffic.

### ***For further information, please contact:***

ELFAA Press Office  
Worldcom Europe Brussels  
Hans Karperien  
T. +32 (0) 2280 6061  
M. +32 (0) 497 077 538  
E. [Hans@web-pr.be](mailto:Hans@web-pr.be)

**Register at [www.elfaa.com](http://www.elfaa.com)  
to receive ELFAA press releases and newsletters as they become available**