



WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2008

## **ELFAA condemns Belgian Aviation Tax**

**BRUSSELS - 15 October 2008.** The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) today strongly criticised reported plans by the Belgian government to impose a tax on airline tickets.

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

“The proposed levy is nothing more than a cheap tax grab on ordinary citizens. Under the proposal, consumers, be they business travellers, holidaymakers or passengers visiting friends and relatives, will be unjustifiably penalised. The tax will hurt the Belgian economy in general, the aviation and travel industry in particular and – most importantly – customers.

We are already witnessing the damaging effects of a similar levy, imposed by the Dutch Government on departing passengers in the Netherlands, which is forcing many passengers to switch away from using the main airport – Schiphol, and instead travel from other more competitive airports in neighboring countries.

ELFAA is strongly opposed to this tax, which is socially, economically and environmentally indefensible. It simply cannot be right to impose an unjustified tax, however much the Government might covet the Euros 132 Million revenue they estimate it would generate for their coffers.

Let’s have an open debate and see who has the best arguments”.

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

*ELFAA airline members include: clickair, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Myair.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sky Europe, Sterling, 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.*



# news

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