



THURSDAY 24 JULY 2008

ELFAA calls for a review of air navigation services in Poland Testifies before Polish Parliament

Warsaw – 24 July 2008. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) appeared today before the Air Transport Committee of the Polish Parliament to complain about the abusive pricing policy of the Polish Air Navigation Services Agency (PANSa). ELFAA called for a detailed review of PANSa's cost base and charges, as well as for more efficiency in PANSa's operations.

Today's hearing in the Polish Parliament was organised in order to give low fares airlines and regional airports an opportunity to express their outrage at recent increases of terminal navigation charges in Poland - +960% in the case of smaller regional airports. It was also an opportunity to complain about PANSa's planned 40% increase in cost base for 2009.

Commenting on today's hearing, John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA said:

“At the time of a global industry crisis and record-high oil prices, it is unacceptable for any part of the aviation value chain to put up their price by 960%. PANSa is clearly exploiting its monopoly position, to the detriment of passengers and regional airports, which risk losing many direct routes established in recent years by low fares airlines, as operating to Polish regions becomes prohibitively expensive.

Airlines are currently implementing the most difficult cost saving measures, including capacity cuts, redundancies and pay freezes, and simply cannot tolerate a 960% price increase or the further 40% cost base increase planned for 2009. ELFAA calls on the Polish Parliament to put an end to PANSa's abusive policy, and to require it to become more efficient. Only this can preserve the huge benefits, in terms of tourism, employment and inward investment delivered by low fares airlines in recent years to the Polish regions.”



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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.

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