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ELFAA welcomes Parliament's vote on Single European Sky II Calls for urgent adoption of implementing measures

Brussels – 25 March 2009. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) today welcomed the vote in the European Parliament on the second package of Single European Sky (SES II). The vote followed a period of negotiations between the Parliament, the Council and the Commission, which led to the adoption of a compromise draft with a mix of ambitious and conservative measures.

John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA, said:

“The initial Single European Sky legislation of 2004 failed to deliver the reform of European ATM, which – with some 5 billion Euros per annum of avoidable cost – is so vitally needed. ELFAA sees SES II as the most vital legislative initiative in the field of aviation in the current parliamentary term, and has strongly supported the more ambitious elements of it proposed by the Commission and the Parliament, including effective performance regulation of Europe's air navigation service providers. While the final text adopted today by the Parliament is not as ambitious as airspace users would like it to be, it is an important first step on the way to the overhaul of the ATM system in Europe.

ELFAA urges accelerated implementation of the provisions of the regulation, following the upcoming vote in the Council, particularly in the areas of performance regulation and the establishment of meaningful Functional Airspace Blocks (FABs). The long overdue elimination of costly inefficiencies must be progressed with the greatest urgency.”

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 carry approximately 150 million passengers every year, 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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