



TUESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2008

UK Government fails to reform Air Passenger Duty

BRUSSELS - 25 November 2008. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) deplores the decision of the Government to renege on the undertakings given in November 2007 to commit to a reform of UK Air Passenger Duty, converting it from an environmentally meaningless charge per passenger to a per flight tax, reflecting the environmental performance of a particular flight and the distance flown. The Government had further committed to discontinue the anomalous exemption of environmentally inefficient transfer passengers, who take multiple flights to complete their journey and to discontinue the exemption for air freight, much of which is carried in older, environmentally-inefficient aircraft.

One year on and the promised reform has resulted in UK-originating passengers paying more, while turning a blind eye to the environmental impact of transfer passengers and air freight.

To justify this about-turn, the UK Government seeks to invoke the environmental gain from the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), which will take account of aviation's impact on the environment. The logical extension of the Government's own argument will be the withdrawal of APD once aviation joins EU ETS in 2012. ELFAA asks the UK Government to commit to this action, having failed to deliver on its own reform.

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.

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