



news

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ELFAA holds 4th Annual General Meeting in Stockholm

BRUSSELS – 26 September 2007. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) met in Stockholm on 24-25 September for its 4th Annual General Meeting. Members debated a range of EU legislative proposals in the field of air transport, some of which risk re-regulating an industry that is already over regulated resulting in a reduction of the overall competitiveness of European aviation.

In particular members considered the European Commission's legislative proposal for the inclusion of aviation into the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Low fares airlines are the most environmentally efficient in the industry. Their use of the newest aircraft with an average age of just 3.9 years, and higher seat occupancy rates, results in the industry's lowest emissions per passenger kilometre. ELFAA is understandably keen, therefore, to ensure that the legislative proposals for including aviation in the EU ETS are designed in such a way as to reward good environmental performance and penalise environmental inefficiency.

ELFAA repeats its call for the ETS legislation to:

- apply to all flights to and from Europe;
- reward past investments in environment-friendly technology and operations;
- allow for environmentally efficient growth;
- penalise environmental inefficiency;
- recognise that inclusion in EU ETS will address aviation's impact on climate change, and there is therefore no justification for other "environmental" taxes on aviation.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

EU liberalisation of air transport in the 1990s, and the resultant emergence of low fares airlines, brought air travel – for so long the preserve of the wealthy few – within the means of millions more citizens.

ELFAA members, which include the largest low fare airlines in Europe, carry over 100 million passengers a year between them, using a combined fleet of some 500 of the most technologically-advanced, environmentally-friendly aircraft.

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

Low fares services currently account for approximately 30% of scheduled intra-European traffic.

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