



news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 2 August 2007

### **ELFAA Criticises Dutch Aviation Tax**

**Levy is tax grab on consumers and will damage Dutch economy.  
ELFAA calls on passengers to sign on-line petition.**

**BRUSSELS – 2 August 2007.** The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) today strongly criticised plans by the Dutch government to impose a €25 (£17) tax on all air passengers leaving airports in the Netherlands and called on travellers to sign an online petition against the tax.

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

“The proposed levy is nothing more than a cheap tax grab on ordinary citizens, be they business travellers, holidaymakers or passengers visiting friends and relatives. If the Dutch government were serious about the environment, they would press for all airlines to deliver the kind of environmental efficiency delivered by the low fares airlines across all sectors of the industry. This cannot be achieved by taxes levied on a per passenger basis and requires a market driven solution, for example, a well designed scheme to include aviation into the EU ETS extending to ALL flights to and from the European Union.

The tax will hurt the Dutch economy in general and the aviation and travel industry in particular. The consideration being given by the new Government to levy the proposed tax only on passengers originating in Holland and not those in transit through Holland is particularly unfair to Dutch passengers and we call on passengers to sign the Dutch Consumer Association petition at:

<http://www2.consumentenbond.nl/acties/7322870/?ticket=nietlid>

(English Translation attached)”.

#### **NOTE TO THE EDITOR**

*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 with ELFAA members carrying more than 100 million passengers per year to over 400 destinations.*

**Register at [www.elfaa.com](http://www.elfaa.com)  
to receive ELFAA press releases and newsletters as they become available**

## English translation of petition:

*Normally the Dutch Consumer Association does not take a stance on tax issues, because this is the task of politicians. However, with this kind of special tax, we make an exception, because the law would endanger the freedom of choice of consumers and their access to these products.*

*Any tax must meet two conditions:*

- 1. The tax must have a proven effect that by making plane tickets more expensive, consumers will make more conscious choices, which would then stimulate sustainable consumption.*
- 2. The government should use the revenue for a structural solution of the problem, in the case of a ticket tax this would be a reduction of the negative effects of flying.*

*None of these conditions is, as far as we can see, met. The flight tax in the form the Cabinet would like to introduce, is in our view nothing else than a price increase, that is hard to explain to consumers. For instance, the tax does not apply to transfer passengers and cargo. Furthermore, the level of taxation is not related to the environmental damage, which depends on distance and the load factor of an aircraft. This means that the "polluter pays" principle has not been applied.*

### ***We need your support***

*We want that the Cabinet to revise its plans and therefore need your support. Help us by signing the below online petition. At the end of the summer, we will hand it over to the government.*

*Yes, I support the protest of the consumer association against the intended flight tax. I call on the government to only raise a tax if it really contributes to reducing the environmental impact of flying.*

*Yes, I support the flight tax protest*

*Your name \**

*Your e-mail address \**