



news

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ELFAA joins ANVR in protest against the Dutch holiday tax

Tax is “economic suicide for a country at the heart of international trade”.

ELFAA calls on passengers to sign on-line petition.

BRUSSELS – 11 September 2007. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) today joined the “Stop the holiday tax” campaign which was launched yesterday by the Association of Dutch tour operators and travel agents (ANVR). ELFAA and the ANVR are among a growing number of stakeholders to strongly criticise the Dutch Government’s plan for a €25 (£17) holiday tax on all air passengers leaving airports in the Netherlands. The tax proposal is expected to be part of the Government’s 2008 budget which will be presented to Parliament on 18 September.

Commenting on the Government’s tax plans, John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA said:

“Today we join forces with the tourism industry to fight the holiday tax which is socially, economically and environmentally indefensible. It is not too late to stop this unjustified tax which the Government is seeking to slip into the budget. Let’s have an open debate and see who has the best arguments.”

“Aviation is for the Netherlands today what shipping used to be in earlier centuries, namely its economic lifeline. Imposing a tax that will cut this lifeline is economic suicide for a country that has been at the heart of international trade for centuries. When a tax is expected to raise €350m but would cost the economy €1bn and 12.000 jobs there is only one solution but to reject it.”

“The proposed holiday tax is bad for Dutch consumers, who will be forced to subsidise foreign business travellers connecting in Amsterdam. It is indefensible from an environmental point of view, as 60% of passengers would be excluded. Moreover, the most polluting forms of aviation – connecting flights and cargo – would be excluded.”

“We are therefore calling on all passengers to sign the ANVR’s petition and to join the fight against the holiday tax.”

Last year ELFAA members carried 6m passengers in the Netherlands, representing over 17% of Dutch air traffic. Several ELFAA members including easyJet and Ryanair have already announced that they would have to cut services from the Netherlands, as it would no longer be economically viable to operate certain routes from Dutch airports.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

The ANVR’s petition is available at: www.stopvakantiebelasting.nl/.

On 2 August, ELFAA published a press release criticising the Dutch tax proposal. It is published at: http://www.elfaa.com/documents/ELFAA_press_release_re_Dutch_tax_020807.pdf.

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.

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