



news

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**ELFAA CALLS FOR WIDER SCOPE FOR PROPOSED EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME
– LONG HAUL AIRLINES SHOULD NOT BE EXEMPTED**

Brussels – 20 December 2006. ELFAA, the European Low Fares Airline Association, supports the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme announced today by the European Commission. However, ELFAA is disappointed at the decision to delay inclusion of all flights arriving and departing EU airports, as proposed in the initial draft of the proposed legislation. Limiting the scope of the scheme initially to intra-EU flights only will capture only 20% of EU aviation carbon emissions, or approximately 0.5% of overall EU emissions. It cannot be right to press ahead with a quick political fix which results in capturing only a tiny proportion of emissions. It is unfair and discriminatory that long haul airlines, who are the biggest polluters, would not have to pay the cost of their emissions. There is also a serious risk that the delay in incorporating long haul traffic would become intractable and we would end up with an intra-EU only scheme. This would be a ridiculous result.

Speaking today following the announcement of the draft legislation, ELFAA's Secretary General, John Hanlon, said:

"The recent Stern Report put aviation's share of global greenhouse gases at 1.6%. While this is small in comparison with road transport's 27% share, the aviation industry acknowledges that something must be done to offset this. A well-designed emissions trading scheme is, without doubt, the most environmentally effective way to achieve this. It is therefore concerning that already the Commission is limiting the initial scope of the scheme.

ELFAA has been supportive of ETS provided that it is a robust scheme that incentivises efficiency and targets inefficient producers. By seriously limiting the scope of the scheme in the initial phase the long haul operators, who are responsible for the majority of emissions (approximately 80%), are not forced to improve their efficiency and reduce their emissions.

We will be calling on the European Parliament to ensure that ALL flights into and out of Europe are covered by the scheme at the same time. Otherwise there is a risk that only 20% of the problem (or 0.5% of total European emissions) is being tackled and intra-European only airlines, including all of ELFAA's members – who are the most efficient producers – will be put at a competitive disadvantage."

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

ELFAA airline members include: easyJet, flybe, Hapag-Lloyd Express, My Way Airlines, 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 approximately 100 million passengers per year to over 400 destinations.

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