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## **ELFAA offers a cautious welcome to EU Council of Environment Ministers decision on Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)**

The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA), representing the major low fares airlines in Europe, whose members carry more than 100 million passengers per year, today gave a cautious welcome to the ETS vote by the European Council of Ministers.

ELFAA has supported the proposed inclusion of aviation in EU ETS, subject to the design of the scheme being such as to incentivise and reward environmentally efficient performance and penalise bad environmental performance.

ELFAA sees in the Council's decision a greater degree of balance between the very significant socio-economic enabling effect of aviation – particularly to the regions - and aviation's effect on the environment. It is right that measures to address aviation's contribution to greenhouse gases should be so structured as to recognise environmental efficiency and not stand in the way of environmentally sustainable growth. The focus of the scheme must be to force the environmentally inefficient airlines operating older aircraft to make the same investments in new aircraft and improve the efficiency of their operations, as the low fares airlines already have.

ELFAA Secretary General John Hanlon said:

"ELFAA welcomes the broad direction of the proposals for aviation's inclusion in the EU ETS decisions taken by the Council of Ministers on December 20th. Our members have invested heavily in the newest, most technologically advanced and environmentally superior aircraft and have the most efficient operations. ELFAA recognizes the Council's retention of an open trading system and the inclusion of all flights in the scope of the plans – including those starting or finishing outside the EU. Any lesser scope would have seriously disadvantaged the most environmentally efficient sector of the industry.

He continued:

"We will of course examine the proposals in detail and there remain a number of areas where the scheme must be improved to encourage environmentally efficient growth in this vital sector. Of particular concern in the context of environmentally efficient growth, is the use of base years 2004-06 when the start date is 2012. ELFAA also urges the ringfencing of the proceeds of auctioning for aviation environmental R and D. ELFAA will continue to work with the EU institutions to ensure that the principles of the Lisbon Agenda are met, as well as European citizens' right to mobility".

### **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.*

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