

European passenger traffic down -9.6% during first half of 2009

For immediate release

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Brussels, 10 August 2009: European airports continue to feel the harsh reality of the crisis, as the latest traffic figures reveal an overall decline of **nearly -10%** in passenger traffic during the first half of the year. Freight, a bellwether of international trade and economic performance, reported **-23.7%** for the first half of the year.

These negative figures have translated into sharply decreasing aeronautical and commercial revenues. Coupled with increasing capital costs stemming from the financial nature of the crisis, airports are facing their worst ever trading conditions. ACI EUROPE maintains its traffic forecast for the full year at -8% for passengers and -16% for freight.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE commented "*These figures speak from themselves. More than 85% of European airports are suffering falls in traffic so far this year. Traffic recovery is not yet in sight, although we may have hit the bottom.*"

He added "*However, there is still a great deal of uncertainty. We don't know yet when the much-talked about 'green shoots in the economy' will result in a return to growth in aviation and we remain heavily exposed to potential risks relating to H1N1 and future oil price fluctuations.*"

The overall **passenger** traffic at European airports decreased by **-7.6%** in **June 2009** compared with June 2008. The overall **freight** traffic among European airports decreased **-20.1%** in June 2009 when compared with the corresponding month in 2008. The overall figure for **movements** at European airports decreased **-8.6%** in June 2009 when compared with June 2008. The accumulated figure for **passenger** traffic **January to June 2009** decreased by **-9.6%** compared with the corresponding period 2008.

Airports welcoming more than 25 million passengers per year (Group 1), airports welcoming between 10 and 25 million passengers (Group 2), airports welcoming between 5 and 10 million passengers (Group 3) and airports welcoming less than 5 million passengers per year (Group 4) reported an average decrease of **-7.4%**, **-8.2%**, **-6.5%** and **-8.0%** respectively when compared with June 2008. The same comparison of June 2009 with June 2007 demonstrates an average decrease of **-6.3%**, **-7.9%**, **-4.8%** and **-3.4%** respectively.

Exceptional examples of airports that saw positive traffic trends in passenger traffic per group, when comparing June 2009 with June 2008, include:

Group 2 airports – Zurich ZRH (**+1.8%**)

Group 3 airports – Milan BGY (**+6.3%**), Marseille (**+5.4%**) and Edinburgh (**+1.4%**)

Group 4 airports – Charleroi (**+39.8%**) Stockholm BMA (**+14.7%**), Bari (**+12.8%**) and Riga (**+11.5%**).

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Note(s) to editors

*Analysis some four months into 2009 shows that European duty free and travel retail sales have dropped -10.4% (in Euros) compared to the same period in 2008, according to the ETRC Index.

The 'ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report - June 2009' includes 110 airports in total.

The ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report is a dedicated service for journalists available in the password protected 'Traffic statistics' section of the 'Media room' on our website www.aci-europe.org. Accredited members of the media may also access additional traffic analysis and comprehensive traffic databases. For your password to access these sections, please contact Maria Karananou by tel: +32 (0)2 552 0979 or by e-mail at: maria.karananou@aci-europe.org. Your request will be validated and the password will be e-mailed to your work address.

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.5 billion passengers each year.