

ACI EUROPE

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European passenger traffic returns to growth during November 2009

For immediate release

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Brussels, 12 January 2010: Newly released figures from ACI EUROPE today give a rare sighting of good news for European air traffic, with the overall **passenger** traffic at European airports reporting an increase of **+1.0%** in **November 2009** compared with November 2008. **However, this figure clearly benefits from a weak comparative, as in November 2008, European passenger traffic reported -8.2%.**

The same story applies to freight traffic. The overall **freight** traffic among European airports increased **+5.6%** in November 2009 when compared with the corresponding month in 2008 (in which a figure of **-12.8%** was reported). The overall figure for **movements** at European airports decreased **-1.9%** in November 2009 when compared with November 2008.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE commented "*We are finally getting back to a positive air traffic trend and for the first time since August 2008 - less than 50% of European airports lost passengers in November. However, passenger traffic keeps underperforming significantly compared to freight, reflecting the fact that the financial crisis is giving way to an employment crisis and low consumer spending throughout Europe.*"

He added "*It is all still very fragile and lingering doubts about the sustainability of the recovery of the economy are likely to keep air traffic growth at a very low pace in the coming months.*"

The accumulated figure for **passenger** traffic **January** to **November 2009** decreased by **-6.2%** compared with the corresponding period 2008. The accumulated figure for **freight** traffic during **January** to **November** decreased by **-15.9%** and **movements** decreased by **-7.6%** during the corresponding period when compared with 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 increase/decrease of **+0.8%**, **-0.7%**, **+1.1%** and **+2.5%** respectively when compared with November 2008. The same comparison of November 2009 with November 2007 demonstrates an average decrease of **-7.5%**, **-9.7%**, **-8.4%** and **-4.6%** respectively.

Examples of airports that experienced an increase in passenger traffic per group, when comparing November 2009 with November 2008, include:

- **Group 1 airports** – Istanbul (**+9.3%**) Rome FCO (**+6.4%**), London LGW (**+4.5%**) and Barcelona (**+3.8%**)
- **Group 2 airports** – Moscow DME (**+11.5%**), Antalya (**+11.1%**), Geneva (**+5.8%**) and Hamburg (**+3.9%**)
- **Group 3 airports** – Moscow VKO (**+20.1%**), Milan BGY (**+15.1%**), Rome CIA (**+11.1%**) and Venice (**+8.1%**)
- **Group 4 airports** – Brindisi (**+41.4%**), Charleroi (**+40.6%**), Bologna (**+27.3%**) and Salzburg (**+24.2%**)

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

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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.