



For immediate release

19 April 2010

## **Europe's airlines and airports express relief that European air space will be re-opened**

**Brussels, 19 April 2010, as of 20:45 CET:** Following a decision taken by European transport ministers this afternoon, most of Europe's airspace should effectively be re-opened on Tuesday, 20 April as of 6.00 GMT.

Europe's airlines and airports said that the revised restrictions permit the resumption of air services without endangering the safety of operations. Close to 40 non-commercial flights had been undertaken by European airlines in the past days, which revealed no indications of anomalies or irregularities – thus enabling a more detailed analysis of the situation.

In a joint statement, the heads of both organisations, **Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE** and **Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, Secretary General AEA** said *"We commend the ministers and the European institutions for their approach of maintaining safety whilst ensuring that European mobility is no longer compromised. Today's decision has paved the way for the resolution of what remains the worst disruption to European aviation since World War II. The situation now calls for a full assessment of the financial impact on the aviation industry at large, with an adequate support response at European level."*

**ENDS**

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### **Notes to the Editor:**

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

The **Association of European Airlines (AEA)** brings together 36 European established service and scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 320

million passengers and 6 million tons of cargo each year, operating 2,400 aircraft serving 620 destinations in 160 countries with 10,720 flights a day. They provide around 378,000 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €75 billion.