

European passenger traffic up 5.2% during first three months of 2010

For immediate release

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Brussels, 12 May 2010: The accumulated figure for **passenger** traffic at European airports during **January to March 2010** increased by **+5.2%** compared with the corresponding period 2009. The accumulated figure for **freight** traffic during **January to March** increased by **+22.6%** and **movements** decreased by **-1.1%** during the corresponding period when compared with 2009.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE commented "*The recovery in air traffic has gained ground in the first three months of the year, especially for cargo - now very close to 2008 levels. Passenger traffic still lags behind 2008 by about -7%, but it is encouraging to see that more than 80% of Europe's airports have seen growth during this period.*"

He added "*However, the paralysis caused by the massive closure of airspace in response to volcanic ash dispersion has seen Europe's airports losing up to 25% of their traffic in April. This is an extremely severe shock to our recovery, which is still evolving. As disruptions continue to affect parts of Europe, ACI EUROPE fully supports on-going efforts to fine-tune the methodology used to impose restrictions to air traffic based on more precise data analysis.*"

The overall **passenger** traffic at European airports for the month of **March 2010** increased by **+6.9%** when compared with March 2009. The overall **freight** traffic among European airports increased **+26.7%** in March 2010 when compared with the corresponding month in 2009. The overall figure for **movements** at European airports decreased **-0.1%** in March 2010 when compared with March 2009.

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 of **+6.1%**, **+7.1%**, **+6.1%** and **+8.0%** respectively when compared with March 2009. The same comparison of March 2010 with March 2008 demonstrates an average decrease of **-6.2%**, **-8.8%**, **-9.6%** and **-7.0%** respectively.

Examples of airports that experienced the highest increase in passenger traffic per group, when comparing March 2010 with March 2009, include:

- **Group 1 airports** – Istanbul (**+16.5%**), Munich (**+11.3%**), Barcelona (**+8.9%**) and Amsterdam (**+8.4%**)
- **Group 2 airports** – Antalya (**+42.8%**), Moscow DME (**+36.9%**), Copenhagen (**+17.2%**) and Dusseldorf (**+12.0%**)
- **Group 3 airports** – Moscow VKO (**+35.0%**), St Petersburg (**+28.9%**), Ankara (**+25.2%**) and Berlin SXF (**+15.0%**)
- **Group 4 airports** – Ohrid (**+70.6%**), Brindisi (**+46.0%**), Charleroi (**+43.0%**) and Bologna (**+33.4%**)

The '**ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report - March 2010**' includes **113 airports** in total. These airports represent nearly 80% of total European passenger traffic.

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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.