

Excellence in airport operations: 1st ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards

ACI EUROPE

6 square de Meeûs
1000 Brussels, Belgium
www.aci-europe.org

For immediate release

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Brussels, 29 June 2005: The results of the 1st ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards were announced at the closing dinner of the 15th ACI EUROPE Annual Congress in Munich on 24 June.

Roy Griffins, Director General, ACI EUROPE, presented the awards to winning airports for excellence and achievement across a whole range of disciplines including retail, security, operations, facilities, community relationships, environmental awareness and customer service. The judging panel was consensually drawn from a respected group of airport industry journalists representing *Jane's Airport Review*, *Airport Business* and *Airport World*.

The winner of the Best Airport in the over 25 million passenger category was **Fraport** (FRA) which was commended by the judges: "for its absolutely outstanding approach to environmental management."

The winner of the Best Airport Award in the 10-25 million passenger category was **Athens International Airport** (AIA). AIA was recognised for its outstanding performance during the 2004 Olympics, where despite facing a peak traffic explosion it actually managed to improve flight punctuality and other key operational performance indices.

The winner of the 5-10 million passenger category was **Marseille Provence Airport** (MRS). The judges cited MRS as a classic example of an airport bouncing back: "The airport has made a real effort in adapting to new style low-cost carriers by pioneering France's first LCC terminal, set to open in June 2006." That apart, the judges specially commended this entry for the new branding that has been developed to market its new approach to both passengers and airlines alike.

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The winner of the 1-5 million passenger category was **Riga International Airport** (RIX). The judges felt this airport is a great example of a new EU Member State which has truly grasped the opportunities of Community membership. The judges singled it out for excellent route development, upgrades to infrastructure and innovative forward planning.

The last award recognised airports in the under 1 million passenger category. The unanimous winner was **Sarajevo International Airport** (SJJ) which was recognised for its sterling reputation in security and continued advancement in difficult circumstances over the last 10 years.

The awards were recognised as a welcome addition to the ACI EUROPE Annual Assembly, Congress and Exhibition. Competition is expected to be fierce for the 2006 Awards, which will take place at the 16th ACI EUROPE Annual Assembly, Congress and Exhibition to be hosted by Athens International Airport in June 2006.

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For more information, or photos of the award ceremony, please contact **Ronan Anderson**, Communications Manager, ACI EUROPE at e-mail: ronan.anderson@aci-europe.org or tel: +32 (0)2 552 09 82.

Airports Council International (ACI) is the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents some 400 airports in 45 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming over a billion passengers each year.