18TH ACI EUROPE ASSEMBLY
(Paris, 19 June 2008)

RESOLUTION

EUROPEAN AIRPORTS JOINING FORCES TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

The eighteenth ACI EUROPE Annual General Assembly,

Noting that air transport is essential for the mobility of European citizens and the competitiveness of the European economy, thus playing a key contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy;

Noting that Europe is facing an airport capacity crunch over the next 20 years and that airport capacity development needs to be granted at least as high a priority as ATM capacity development to ensure the overall efficiency of the aviation network, taking environmental issues into consideration;

Noting that, over the past decades, European airports have built a strong environmental record at local level, taking proactive and far reaching steps to minimise the impact of their activities on the environment and ensure their sustainable development;

Noting that a growing number of individual European airports are taking steps to reduce carbon emissions generated by airport operations, which can account for up to 5% of total emissions from aviation, and that some of them have already achieved carbon neutrality for operations fully within their own control;

Noting and supporting the Resolution of the 16TH ACI WORLD Assembly adopted in Buenos Aires on 6 November 2007 and the Aviation Industry Commitment to Action on Climate Change signed in Geneva on 22 April 2008;

Recognising the leadership of the European Union in the global fight against Climate change and the need to work towards a global, equitable and stable emissions management framework;

Recognising the critical need for European airports to collectively address current and projected environmental impacts not only locally but also globally, through the application of the principles of sustainability;

Recognising in particular the need for European airports to develop and operate their infrastructure and services in a way that allows them to effectively participate to the reduction of the growing contribution of aviation to climate change,

Resolves that:

1. ACI EUROPE calls upon the European Union to pursue a clear and sound policy reconciling aviation growth with ambitious environmental objectives, in particular in relation to climate change;

2. ACI EUROPE and its members commit to reduce carbon emissions from airport operations fully within their own control with the ultimate target to become carbon neutral;

3. ACI EUROPE commits to establish and operate at the latest by the 2009 General Assembly (June 2009) a European wide scheme allowing airports to follow a common framework for the measurement, reporting and reduction of carbon emissions with the possibility of becoming carbon neutral.