AIRPORTS COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL

17 June 2009

Yiannis Paraschis
President

Mr. Antonio Tajani
Vice-President
European Commission
BERL 12/371
Rue de la Loi, 200
1049 Brussels

Dear Mr Vice-President,

I would like to thank you very much for our meeting of 10 June, together with my colleagues from Aéroports de Paris, Fraport, SEA Milan Airports and our Director General.

As European airports are presently facing their worst ever trading conditions, the opportunity to openly exchange on key issues affecting our business was indeed very important and much appreciated.

We were reassured to hear that no extension of the suspension of the *use-it-or-lose-it* airport slot rule for the next Winter season would be considered. Once again, I would like to stress that the position taken by ACI EUROPE on this issue reflects a wide consensus amongst our membership, uniting both large congested airports as well as regional airports. This position also reflects the evolution of our sector over the last 10 years and the fact that airports are now businesses in their own right, acting as commercial entities and focused on the efficient use of their facilities.

On the matter of security, allow me to stress again that we fully support your efforts to withdraw existing restrictions on the carriage by passengers of liquids, aerosols and gels (LAGs). As a service industry, we owe this to our passengers and customers.

However, it is clear that significant operational and financial issues need to be resolved in order to achieve this objective. In this regard, a total or even partial withdrawal (limited to transfer passengers) of these restrictions by April 2010 is unrealistic from an operational point of view. We fully agree that a clear roadmap should be established by this date, ideally involving testing of new screening technology, so as to pave the way for implementation. As mentioned during the meeting, implementation throughout Europe of a new standard will require public financing and I am grateful for your commitment to check whether EU funds could be made available to finance at least part of the costs involved. Your willingness to address this issue with Member States is also much appreciated.

Beyond airports, the aviation industry at large needs your support to obtain a public financing of security measures, at least for additional measures imposed at national level.

Finally, I would also like to thank you for your agreement to revise, as soon as possible, the existing Community Guidelines on start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports, so as to temporarily extend the duration of such aid. This measure would send a very positive signal to regional airports and would help them protect vital air links for the Communities they serve.

As my term as President of ACI EUROPE is ending today, I would like to inform you that Mr Ad Rutten, COO of the Schiphol Group (Amsterdam), will take over from me following his election by our General Assembly in Manchester. It has been a pleasure meeting you and the ACI EUROPE Board looks forward to pursuing this fruitful dialogue with you in the coming months.

Yours sincerely,

