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ACI EUROPE launches *Airport Innovation Handbook* to accelerate industry transformation

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Barcelona, 24 November 2026: ACI EUROPE today released its *Airport Innovation Handbook* at the ACI Airports Innovate 2026 conference in Barcelona, offering airport operators a practical roadmap to embed innovation into their strategies, operations and business models.

Developed collaboratively by the members of the **ACI EUROPE Innovation & Technology Forum**, the Handbook draws on collective industry expertise, research and real-life airport case studies to help airports turn innovation ambitions into effective and measurable operational improvements.

The publication examines how airports organise, finance and implement innovation, presenting practical frameworks and recommendations across three key areas: infrastructural capacity, passenger experience and operational excellence.

It also identifies the key regulatory and policy conditions needed to secure and accelerate innovation deployment:

1. Predictable and technology-neutral regulation,
2. Simplified and time-effective standardisation, certification and cross-border data exchange and
3. Enhanced access to national and European funding for de-risking and addressing investment gaps.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE said: *"Innovation is a strategic imperative for future-proofing the airport industry, along with sustainability and diversification. As businesses in their own right, airports are exposed to the same disruptive forces that are right now shaking up companies in virtually every sector. But, they also need to address a number of specific challenges: growing demand for air transport, severe capacity constraints, decarbonisation and other sustainability imperatives, evolving passenger and stakeholder expectations, as well as a fast increasing security and cyber threats."*

"The guidance we are publishing today is about placing innovation at the heart of how airports operate and develop. But it is also about making clear that this transformation cannot happen in isolation. Policy makers and regulators in Europe must step up their game – creating the conditions and providing the support needed for airports to fully harness the potential of innovation. Ultimately, this is about delivering on Europe's competitiveness agenda, ensuring our airports drive sustainable connectivity, economic growth and prosperity."

Emanuele Calà of Aeroporti di Roma, Chair of the Innovation & Technology Forum and Vera Jakobsen of Munich Airport, Vice-Chair of the Forum commented*: "We are very proud to present the Handbook to the global airport community today. Our ambition was to move beyond discussing innovation and provide airports with practical guidance on making it happen. The real value of innovation emerges when solutions are shared, adapted and scaled. By learning from each other's successes and challenges, airports can accelerate transformation together."*

The Handbook features contributions from over 30 airport operators, showcasing innovation in action across Europe.

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Download your copy of the ACI EUROPE Innovation Handbook here.

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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 500 airports in 55 countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe. Airports and air connectivity support 14 million jobs, generating €851 billion in European economic activity (5% of GDP). In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieving Net Zero carbon emissions for operations under their control by 2050, without offsetting.