

**ACI EUROPE**

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## While the aviation emissions debate goes on, airports are already delivering

For immediate release

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**Brussels, Casablanca, Hong Kong & Montreal:** As the negotiations at ICAO continue for a deal to put in place a global system to reduce airline emissions, the airport industry today released an update on its own voluntary climate change initiative, **Airport Carbon Accreditation**. The carbon management certification programme was launched 4 years ago and has gathered steady momentum, expanding beyond its initial European focus, to include airports in Asia-Pacific (including Australia & the Gulf) and Africa.

The independent, institutionally endorsed programme<sup>1</sup> has already won praise from ICAO, UNEP and the EU's Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas. The programme has also just achieved a place in the Top 10 shortlist of the EU's [World You Like Contest](#), the final results of which will be announced in November.

**Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE, Patti Chau, Regional Director, ACI ASIA-PACIFIC and Ali Tounsi, Regional Director ACI AFRICA** jointly commented *"As the face of air transport on the ground, airports are mindful of the need to actively address their carbon footprints. In the 4 years since the launch of Airport Carbon Accreditation, the programme has really helped frame and support the collective work that airports are doing to make their operations more carbon efficient and their business more sustainable."*

In June of each year, the programme administrator<sup>2</sup> releases an Annual Report with details of all the airports certified at one of the 4 available levels of certification ('Mapping', 'Reduction', 'Optimisation' and 'Neutrality') in the previous 12 months and carbon reductions achieved. In year 4 of the programme, the collective reduction was over 170,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, enough to power 71,000 households for a year.

Initially launched in Europe in June 2009, the institutionally endorsed programme **Airport Carbon Accreditation** has moved up several gears in the past 4 years, **with the support of ACI WORLD**. In November 2011, the programme expanded to the Asia-Pacific region, gaining the support of ICAO at that time too. This was followed by expansion to the African region in June of this year, with Enfidha-Hammamet International Airport the first to achieve certification.

As the centrepieces of a complex web of aircraft movements, technical operations and surface access transport, airports can address their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in a variety of ways. These can include better insulation and energy efficiency, switching to green energy sources, investing in hybrid, electric or gas-powered service vehicles, encouraging employees, passengers & visitors to use public transport, working with airlines & air traffic management to reduce runway taxiing times and implement green landing processes and much more.

The programme requires voluntary application by each airport on an annual basis. In Europe, 77 airports in 24 countries are currently certified at one of the 4 available levels of accreditation, including 14 that are carbon neutral. Combined with the certification of 12 airports in the Asia-Pacific region of ACI and 1 airport in ACI Africa's region, the programme now comprises **90 certified airports**. These airports **welcome around 22% of global air passenger traffic** every year.

**ENDS**

Press release

## Notes for Editors:

For more information, please visit [www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org](http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org)

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has estimated that aviation's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions account for 2% of global emissions' impact on climate change. Of that figure, airports' own operations only account for up to 5%, but European airports are keen to tackle their greenhouse gas emissions – several individual airports operators having already committed to becoming carbon neutral in the past few years with some having already achieved this.

<sup>1</sup>The programme is administered by leading consultancy WSP Environment & Energy and overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives of the European Commission, ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) EUROCONTROL, ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme).

<sup>2</sup>**WSP Environment & Energy** is the administrator of *Airport Carbon Accreditation*. As part of one of the world's leading professional service firms, WSP and GENIVAR, WSP Environment & Energy is a global consultancy which delivers practical, and cost effective solutions to many environmental, energy, sustainability and climate change issues. [www.wspenvironmental.com/](http://www.wspenvironmental.com/)

For information about aviation and the environment please go to: [www.enviro.aero](http://www.enviro.aero)

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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.*