

**ACI EUROPE**

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# Widening gap in air traffic growth between EU and Non-EU airports

For immediate release

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**Brussels, 8 April 2015:** European airport trade body, ACI EUROPE today released its traffic report for **February**. The report is the only air transport report which includes all types of civil aviation passenger flights: full service, low cost and charter. It reveals that passenger traffic at Europe's airports grew by an average **+5.0%** during the month.

Reviewing the result in more detail, **passenger traffic** in the **EU** grew by a healthy **+6.2%**, driven in particular by double digit growth in Greece, Ireland, Belgium, Portugal, Romania, Hungary and Lithuania. Meanwhile, in a continued reversal of fortune, **Non-EU** airports posted a much lower rate of passenger traffic growth (**+1.3%**), mainly due to traffic losses in Ukraine and Russia as well as the impact of severe weather conditions in parts of Turkey.

**Freight traffic** across the European airport network – an established bellwether of economic performance – was up **+2.9%**. Finally, aircraft movements were up **+1.4%**.

**Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE** said *"EU passenger traffic keeps outperforming weak economic growth, building upon last year's dynamic trend. The outlook is now getting even brighter, as lower oil prices, the ECB's Quantitative Easing policy and improving consumer confidence should all help further support demand for air travel in the coming months. Conversely, Russian airports are generally seeing a sharp decrease in passenger traffic – with the country entering recession this year for the first time since 2009 and international sanctions taking their toll. This situation is also affecting freight traffic across Europe, as well as the passenger traffic performance of other European airports that are particularly exposed to Russian demand."*

During the month of **February**, airports welcoming more than 25 million passengers per year (Group 1), airports welcoming between 10 and 25 million passengers (Group 2), airports welcoming between 5 and 10 million passengers (Group 3) and airports welcoming less than 5 million passengers per year (Group 4) reported an average adjustment **+2.9%**, **+6.8%**, **+6.3%** and **+6.8%**.

The airports which reported the highest increases in passenger traffic are as follows:

**GROUP 1:** Madrid (**+12.0%**), Rome FCO (**+9.1%**), London LGW (**+7.1%**), Antalya (**+5.4%**), Amsterdam (**+4.9%**)

**GROUP 2:** Athens (**+24.7%**), London STN (**+24.6%**), Brussels (**+18.5%**), Lisbon (**+17.9%**) and Dublin (**+16.7%**)

**GROUP 3:** Milan BGY (**+18.2%**), Porto (**+17.7%**), Bucharest OTP (**+15.8%**), Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg (**+15.0%**) and Glasgow (**+13.8%**)

**GROUP 4:** Chania (**+94.4%**), Mikonos (**+46.4%**), Ostrava (**+40.2%**), Santorini/Thira JTR (**+37.8%**) and Volgograd (**+35.7%**)

The '**ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report – February 2015**' includes 209 airports in total representing more than 88% of European air passenger traffic.

**## ENDS ##**

The ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report is a dedicated service for journalists available in the password protected 'Airport Traffic Report' section of the 'Media room' on our website [www.aci-europe.org](http://www.aci-europe.org). Accredited members of the media may also access additional traffic analysis and comprehensive traffic databases. For your password to access these sections, please contact us by e-mail at: [maria.karananou@aci-europe.org](mailto:maria.karananou@aci-europe.org). Your request will be validated and the password will be e-mailed to your work address.

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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 more than 460 airports in 45 European countries. In 2013, our member airports handled over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.7 billion passengers, 16.8 million tonnes of freight and 20.8 million aircraft movements.*

**EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.**