



Airport industry prepares to mark a quarter century of progress

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ACI EUROPE

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Brussels, 17 June 2016: The European airport industry will be meeting in Athens next week for the Annual Congress & General Assembly of ACI EUROPE, hosted by Athens International Airport* (AIA). Taking place on 20 to 22 June, the event will bring together more than 300 airport executives, representatives from the EU institutions, the Greek authorities, and business partners - including airlines, ground handlers, retailers and security companies, to debate current and future trends in air transport.

The conference's theme "*There is nothing permanent except change – towards a radical remodeling of passenger and airline customer relationships*" will focus on the evolving interactions between airport operators and their customers.

This year's Annual Congress & General Assembly will also be the opportunity to mark the **25th anniversary of ACI**. Since 1991, Airports Council International has established itself as the authoritative and trusted voice for the World's airports. Here in Europe, ACI EUROPE acts as a unique centre of expertise and influence – always looking for new ways to add value for its members and focused on promoting a wider understanding of challenges facing civil aviation.

Being firmly committed to a responsible, progressive and sustainable agenda, ACI EUROPE has over the last 10 years taken **a leadership position** on an increasing number of industry and societal issues of strategic relevance. These include:

- The **fight against Climate Change** with *Airport Carbon Accreditation* – a robust and widely praised certification programme¹, now established as the global standard for carbon management at airports and achieving carbon reductions year after year since 2009. Last December at COP 21, ACI EUROPE also reconfirmed its vision for a carbon neutral airport industry by formally committing to get 50 European airports becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
- The **advancement of consumer interest** with its *Water @ Airports* initiative², ACI EUROPE's *Guidelines on Passenger Experience at European Airports* or its recent calls for a consumer focused & market driven regulations – notably on airport charges.
- The **promotion of air connectivity and its wider economic benefits** for communities and businesses across Europe – through in-depth analysis of the dynamics of air connectivity³ and calls for Open Skies⁴, jointly with the European Travel Commission (ETC).
- The **provision of expertise and advice** to regulators on all matters relating to **aviation security**.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of ACI EUROPE, commented: "We are very excited to celebrate 25 years of service and leadership to Europe's airports in Athens next week. The fact that ACI EUROPE has grown its membership from 406 airports back in 2006 to **more than 500** today reflects our ability to bring together and serve the entire airport industry – from the mega hubs to the very small regional airports. Europe's airports have gone through tremendous changes over these past 25 years, transforming into businesses in their own right and becoming not just BtoB but also BtoC businesses. As this progress continues in the years to come, we will keep raising the profile of airports as consumer-focused & sustainable businesses connecting Europe to the wider World."

Full details of the programme for the event can be found here:
<http://www.aci-europe-events.com/annual-general-assembly/>.

NOTES TO EDITORS

* The event host, **Athens International Airport** itself celebrates 15 years of operation this year.

¹ **Airport Carbon Accreditation** is supported by the UNFCCC, UNEP, ECAC, the European Commission and EUROCONTROL – <http://www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/>.

² As of January 2016, 66 airports accounting for 78% of passenger traffic in Europe are following the ACI EUROPE *Recommended Practice* on the availability of water at airports – <https://www.aci-europe.org/component/downloads/downloads/4369.html>.

³ The *2016 Airport Industry Connectivity Report* will be released in Athens on 21 June. The 2015 report is accessible at:
<https://www.aci-europe.org/component/downloads/downloads/4333.html>.

⁴ <https://www.aci-europe.org/component/downloads/downloads/4332.html>.

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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 close to **500 airports** in 45 European countries. In 2014, our member airports handled over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than **1.8 billion passengers, 18.4 million tonnes of freight** and **21.2 million aircraft movements**. These airports contribute to the employment of **12.3 million people**, generating **€675 billion each year (4.1%) of GDP** in Europe.*

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.