

ACI EUROPE

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Airport traffic retains strong growth momentum during Q3

For immediate release

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Brussels, 09 November 2017: European airport trade body, ACI EUROPE today releases its air traffic report for **September & Q3**. The report is the only industry report that includes all types of civil aviation passenger flights: full service, low cost and charter. It shows that during the third quarter of this year, **passenger traffic** at Europe's airports grew by **+9%** - slightly less than in Q2 (+10.6%).

The growth momentum in Q3 gained further traction in the **non-EU market**, where passenger volumes increased by **+15%** (+13.1% in Q2). The main drivers were a now complete recovery from last year's downturn for most Turkish airports, as well as buoyant growth at many airports across Russia, Ukraine Georgia and Iceland.

Meanwhile, **EU airports** maintained their strong pace in passenger traffic growth at **+7.4%**. This followed an exceptional performance in the preceding quarter (+10.0% in Q2), which partly reflected catch-up growth from 2016 when terrorism dampened demand. In line with trends established earlier in the year, countries to the East of the EU bloc achieved double-digit growth along with Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and Portugal.

The Majors (Europe's top 5 busiest airports) saw passenger traffic growing by **+5.8%** in Q3 - led by Istanbul-Atatürk (+11.7%) which was followed by Amsterdam-Schiphol (+6.1%), Paris-CDG (+5.7%), Frankfurt (+4.9%) and capacity constrained London-Heathrow (+1.7%).

Freight traffic across the European airport network during Q3 remained consistent with the previous quarter, coming in at **+9.5%** (+9.2% during Q2). **Aircraft movements** also remained robust at **+4.4%** (+4.3% during Q2) – pointing to sustained airline capacity expansion.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE commented *"We are now experiencing a synchronized air traffic growth dynamic in the EU and non-EU markets. This is propelling airports across Europe towards record traffic results – with EU airports in particular having expanded passenger traffic by more than 20% over the past 3 years. That growth also puts a lot of pressure on airport facilities and staff – with operational efficiency and quality becoming a daily challenge for many airports."*

He added *"As long as economic conditions keep defying geopolitical risks, air traffic will continue to grow - spurred by the increasing reliance of businesses and consumers on air connectivity. The fact that economic sentiment in the EU has just reached historic highs is encouraging – even though recent spikes in oil prices are a worry. For now, disruptions to air traffic in Europe are coming from airlines having gone bust, being partially taken over or massively cancelling flights and reducing capacity due to operating issues. Expect more impact from that on traffic figures in the coming weeks."*

During **Q3**, 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 **+5.5%**, **+13.3%**, **+10.0%** and **+10.9%**.

The airports that reported the highest increases in passenger traffic during Q3 were as follows:

GROUP 1: Moscow SVO (+19.5%), Istanbul IST (+11.7%), Istanbul SAW (+7.8%) Manchester (+7.6%) and Oslo (+7.1%)

GROUP 2: Antalya (+56.5%), Ankara (+33.8%), Warsaw WAW (24.2%), St Petersburg (+21.8%) and Prague (+16.8%)

GROUP 3: Naples (+27.5%), Keflavik (+18.8%), Kiev (+18.8%), Toulouse (+18.7%) and Catania (+16.2%)

GROUP 4: Grenoble (+3,470.3%), Bucharest BBU (+287.9%), Nis (+180%), Kaunas (+166.5%) and Foggia (+148.8%)

During **September**, 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 **+5.2%**, **+12.0%**, **+10.4%** and **+11.3%**.

The airports that reported the highest increases in passenger traffic during September were as follows:

GROUP 1: Moscow SVO (+15.7%), Istanbul SAW (+7.9%), Manchester MAN (+7.5%) Istanbul IST (+7.3%) and Moscow DME (+7.2%)

GROUP 2: Antalya (+49.8%), Ankara (+29.2%), Warsaw WAW (24%), St Petersburg (+20.5%) and Izmir (+16.4%)

GROUP 3: Naples (+27.9%), Keflavik (+23.9%), Kiev (+19.5%), Catania (+17.5%) and Faro (+17.4%)

GROUP 4: Grenoble (+2,058.1%), Foggia (+463.6%), Bucharest (+247.7%), Klagenfurt (+191.6%) and Craiova (+134%)

The '**ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report – September & Q3 2017**' includes 252 airports in total representing more than 88% of European air passenger traffic.

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Want more access to the latest airport traffic data? ACI EUROPE has developed a dedicated App providing just that. The **Airport Traffic Analyser App** gives you all the latest key figures, but also enables you to compare individual airports' performance and countries' performance via customised comparison tables & graphs that can be downloaded and shared via email or social media.

The Airport Traffic Analyser App is freely available for iOS, Android and as a WebApp. To find out more, go to www.aci-europe.org/trafficapp

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. 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. 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 over **500 airports** in 45 European countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe: **2 billion passengers, 20 million tonnes of freight** and **23.7 million aircraft movements** in 2016. 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.