

October saw bounce in air traffic growth across Europe

For immediate release

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ACI EUROPE

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Brussels, 10 December 2018: European airport trade association ACI EUROPE today releases its traffic report for **October 2018**, during which average **passenger traffic** in geographical Europe grew by **+6.5%** compared with the same month last year – a notable increase on the previous month (+5%).

At **EU airports**, passenger volumes grew by **+6.3%** in October (+4.9% in September). Austria and Luxembourg recorded stellar passenger growth, driven by Low Cost Carrier expansion at Vienna (+18.2%) and Luxembourg (+12.1%). While airports in several countries in the Eastern part of the bloc kept registering double-digit growth, the larger & core air transport markets of Germany, France, Italy and Spain also outperformed the bloc's average – along with Ireland, Portugal and Finland. This in part reflected the impact ATM disruptions (albeit less so, than previous months).

Sweden was the only European country posting a decrease in passenger traffic (-1.1%), a result of the new aviation tax and depreciation of the local currency. Passenger traffic in Belgium barely grew (+0.9%) due to ground handling strikes severely affecting Brussels* (-2.4%). Meanwhile, the UK, the Netherlands, Denmark and Cyprus significantly underperformed the EU average - with a mix of aviation taxes, currency variations, airport capacity limitations and the bankruptcy of Cobalt Air playing their part.

Non-EU airports saw passenger traffic expanding by **+7.2%**, although weakness in domestic traffic at Turkish airports limited gains. Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus and Iceland came on top, with particularly impressive growth at Kiev (+24.6%), Tbilisi (+17.9%), Minsk (+16.5%) and Keflavik (+16.3%). While the passenger traffic dynamic held on in Russia, it became subdued in Israel and continued to be weak in Norway.

Passenger traffic at **the Majors** (top 5 European airports) underperformed the European average at **+4.3%**. Paris-CDG (+5.7%) came top of the league, with Frankfurt (+5.2%). London-Heathrow still achieved notable growth given its lack of capacity, followed by Istanbul-Atatürk (+3.5%) and Amsterdam-Schiphol (+2.5%).

These robust passenger growth figures also reflected significant airline capacity expansion, with October delivering the highest monthly increase in **aircraft movements** so far this year **+4.5%**.

Freight traffic remained moderate at **+1.9%**, with more gains at non-EU airports (+4.1%) than at EU ones (+1.5%).

During the month of **October**, 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 **+6.0%**, **+7.4%**, **+6.2%** and **+6.7%**.

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The airports that reported the highest increases in passenger traffic during October 2018 (compared with October 2017) are as follows:

GROUP 1: Antalya AYT (+**25.9%**), Moscow SVO (+**13.8%**), Madrid (+**9.7%**), London STN & Barcelona El-Prat (+**8.8%**) and Dublin (+**8.5%**)

GROUP 2: Berlin TXL (+**31.9%**), Kiev (+**24.6%**), Moscow VKO (+**20.4%**), Vienna (+**18.2%**) and St Petersburg (+**15.2%**)

GROUP 3: Seville (+**26.5%**), Riga (+**16.6%**), Keflavik (+**16.3%**), Palermo (+**15.2%**) and Krakow (+**14.3%**)

GROUP 4: Targu-Mures (+**96,969.2%**), Taranto (+**300%**), Bourgas (+**96.1%**), Treviso (+**89.2%**) and Kutaisi (+**77.8%**)

The **ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report - October 2018** includes 244 airports in total representing more than 88% of European air passenger traffic. The report is unique in that it is the only one to include all types of airline passenger flights to, from and within Europe: full service, low cost, charter and others.

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Notes to Editors

* Passenger traffic at Brussels Airport was significantly hit due to industrial action by ground handlers, during the final week of the month, which also coincided with the holiday period.

Want more access to the latest airport traffic data? ACI EUROPE has developed a dedicated App providing just that. The App gives you all the usual key figures, but also enabling you to make customised comparison tables & graphs that can be downloaded and shared via email or social media. The App is 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 October also access additional traffic analysis and comprehensive traffic databases. For your password to access these sections, please contact us by e-mail at: biljana.banjac@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.