

Passenger traffic growth further softens in January at 4.2%, freight keeps falling

For immediate release

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Brussels, 22 March 2019: European airport trade association, ACI EUROPE today releases its traffic report for **January 2019**, during which average **passenger traffic** in geographical Europe grew by **+4.2%** compared with the same month last year. This marks a slowdown in the growth dynamic of the past years, with this monthly performance being the lowest achieved by Europe's airports since Summer 2016.

The slowdown is primarily due to **non-EU airports**, which reported an average passenger traffic growth of **+2.6%** - due to the negative performance of Turkish airports (-4.1%) - reflecting the country's economic woes - and that of Icelandic airports (-6%), following 10 years of exponential growth in passenger traffic at Keflavik airport.

However, gains remained strong in Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine and Israel - where airports on average achieved double digit growth, as well as for a number of Russian airports, including Moscow-Sheremetyevo (+17.4%), Moscow-Vnukovo (+11.6%) and Saint Petersburg (+14%).

EU airports posted an increase of **+4.7%** - with doubled-digit growth reported by airports in Austria (+20.8%), Estonia (+17.2%) and Greece (+10.6%). Growth was also dynamic in most of the Eastern part of the bloc, as well as in the Iberian Peninsula, Germany and Luxembourg. Conversely, passenger traffic kept dropping in Sweden (-2.7%) for the 5th consecutive month - and airports in the UK, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Croatia, and the Czech Republic underperformed the EU average.

The Majors (top 5 European airports) grew their passenger traffic by just **+1.3%** - due to Istanbul-Ataturk reporting negative results (-2.6%) and slower growth at Paris-CDG (+2.9%), Frankfurt (+2.3%), London-Heathrow (+2.1%) and Amsterdam-Schiphol (+1.7%).

Apart from Berlin-Tegel (+42.4%)¹ and Vienna (+24.4%) being star performers on the back of capacity expansion by Low Cost Carriers, a number of other **large/medium size point-to points airports and secondary & niche hubs** also posted dynamic results - including: Barcelona (+7.1%), London-Stansted (+7.1%), Milan-Malpensa (+9.6%), Dusseldorf (+15.5%), Athens (+8.5%), Edinburgh (+9.9%), Palma de Mallorca (+19%), Oporto (+9.6%), Lyon (+8.6%) and Venice (+8.6%).

Regional & smaller airports delivered the most contrasted results, with a growing number reporting passenger traffic losses but others still achieving impressive results - including: Sevilla (+23%), Krakow (+15.9%), Thessaloniki (+25.5%), Nantes (+12.2%), Faro (+21.9%), Cagliari (+10.5%), Paphos (+34.1%), Kaunas (+19.9%), Kharkiv (+20.6%), Sibiu (+34.4%), Newquay (+15.7%), Ostend (+21.9%), Caen (+50.5%) and Batumi (+52.1%).

In line with end of last year, **freight traffic** continued to fall during January at **-2.4%** with losses concentrated at EU airports (-3.2%) and not at non-EU ones (+1.9%). Amongst the top 10 European airports for freight traffic only 2 posted gains: Liège (+13.9%) and Madrid (+5%).

Aircraft movements were up **+3.9%** - increasing by +4.2% in the EU market and by +2.8% in the non-EU bloc.

During the month of **January**, 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 **+3.5%**, **+6.4%**, **+2.5%** and **+3.7%**.

The airports that reported the highest increases in passenger traffic during January 2019 (compared with January 2018) are as follows:

GROUP 1: Vienna (**+24.4%**), Palma De Mallorca (**+19%**), Moscow SVO (**+17.4%**), Antalya (**+13.8%**) and Barcelona & London STN (**+7.1%**)

GROUP 2: Berlin TXL (**+42.4%**), Dusseldorf (**+15.5%**), St Petersburg (**+14%**), Kiev (**+13.6%**) and Moscow VKO (**+11.6%**)

GROUP 3: Thessaloniki (**+25.5%**), Seville (**+23%**), Faro (**+21.9%**), Krakow (**+15.9%**) and Valencia (**+15.8%**)

GROUP 4: Mikonos (**+182.9%**), Kutaisi (**+112.2%**), Kefallinia (**+64.5%**), Batumi (**+52.1%**) and Caen (**+50.5%**)

The '**ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Report – January 2019** includes 241 airports in total representing more than 88% of European air passenger traffic. ACI EUROPE Airport Traffic Reports are unique in that they are the only ones to include all types of airline passenger flights to, from and within Europe: full service, low cost, charter and others.

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¹In the case of Berlin-Tegel, apart from continued growth, the performance also reflects a rebound from January last year when the airport was still suffering the fallout of the bankruptcy of Air Berlin.

Notes to Editors

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 may 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.*

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