



19 November 2010

**Re: Forthcoming meeting of the EU Council of Transport Ministers**

Dear Minister,

As you are no doubt aware, the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council recently undertook an initiative to host an Aviation Summit in Bruges, Belgium. On 26<sup>th</sup> October, the Presidency published the results of this Summit in a so-called “Bruges Declaration” which will be presented to the Council of Transport Ministers at its next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The aviation sector wholeheartedly supports the findings of the Presidency and we ask you and all EU member states to strongly endorse the thrust of the “Bruges Declaration”.

We welcome the excellent initiative of the EU Presidency because it draws public attention to the important role of aviation for the European economy, as well as the need for measures to ensure Europe’s global competitiveness. In so doing, the Summit and its summary conclusions set forth the parameters for the Commission’s future priorities in the field of air transport. Without evidently questioning the European Commission’s right of initiative, the Presidency nonetheless outlined key political priorities, which, in our view, merit the full support of the Council.

The GDPs of emerging economies in Asia will continue to grow at significantly higher levels than the GDP of European economies and will create increased demands for mobility within and from these regions. We are deeply convinced – and our view is evidently shared by the Belgian presidency – that in light of these gravitational shifts, Europe must act now to secure its international competitiveness and address these international challenges.

Coordinated action under the leadership of the EU Council, and in cooperation with the European aviation sector and the Commission, is needed to implement urgently the Single European Sky, establish public funding mechanisms for the SESAR project and avoid further burdensome regulations (especially the EC’s recent proposal for an aviation tax as well as national decisions to impose new aviation taxes or increase existing ones). Likewise, the implementation of an international level playing field is essential if all the actors of the European aviation industry are to be able to compete effectively.



*The International Air Carrier Association*

The agenda established by the Belgian Presidency is ambitious, but achievable. We are committed to supporting the EU institutions in their endeavours to ensure that Europe's aviation sector will be consumer-friendly and competitive, whilst assuming leadership in tackling the environmental challenge facing the world.

We await the outcome of your deliberations in the beginning of December and are prepared to implement measures the Council deems necessary to promote European competitiveness.

Yours sincerely,

Olivier Jankovec  
Director General  
ACI Europe

Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus  
Secretary General  
AEA

François Gayet  
Secretary General  
ASD

John Hanlon  
Secretary General  
ELFAA

Mike Ambrose  
Director General  
ERA

Sylviane Lust  
Director General  
IACA

ACI Europe	Square de Meeûs, 6, B - 1000 Brussels, Belgium
AEA	Avenue Louise, 350 box4, B - 1050 Brussels, Belgium
ASD	Monsanto Building, Av. de Tervuren, 270 - 2nd fl, B - 1150 Brussels, Belgium
ELFAA	Rue du Luxembourg, 14a, B - 1000 Brussels
ERA	The Baker Suite, Fair Oaks A/P, Chobham, Woking, GB - Surrey GU24 8HX
IACA	Avenue Louise, 228, 7th floor, B - 1050 Brussels