

Information

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EU-TURKEY AIR TRAVEL MARKET – A GROWTH MARKET DESPITE RECESSION, SAYS AEA

The recently-finalised AEA 2010 traffic data paint a bleak picture of a difficult year. Only three member airlines posted increases in passenger boardings for the year and one – Turkish Airlines – stood out with a 12.3% growth. In the process, the airline moved from seventh to fourth place among AEA members, ranked by passengers carried.

It was against this backdrop that AEA Secretary General Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus met with Turkish Airlines CEO Temel Kotil and his senior colleagues on January 25th, to review the state of the airline industry from the perspective of a large and resilient market which is at one and the same time an important part of the European network, but nonetheless not yet fully integrated into the European aviation area.

“After the USA, Turkey is the most important market outside the European aviation area for European carriers, with passenger flows amounting to more than 25 million per year”, said Mr Schulte-Strathaus. “Istanbul is the ninth-largest hub airport in Europe and, serving a European Capital of Culture in 2010, is set to consolidate its position further this year. We expect significantly more visitors to this beautiful city. Turkey is already a destination for 23 AEA member airlines, all of whom have an interest in minimising any barriers there might be to accessing this high-achieving market”.

Mr Schulte-Strathaus noted that the ongoing process of creating opportunities between the EU and its major travel-trade partners had largely by-passed this important market. *“We have ‘open skies’ with the USA and Canada, and a comprehensive agreement with Morocco. Traffic will increase if the conditions are right, and that includes reducing administrative burdens for airlines and travellers. This is particularly true, if citizens are encouraged to visit the European Capital of Culture”,* he said.

- Adria Airways
- Aegean Airlines
- Aer Lingus
- AeroSvit
- airBaltic
- Air France
- Air Malta
- Alitalia
- Austrian
- bmi
- British Airways
- brussels airlines
- Cargolux
- Croatia Airlines
- Cyprus Airways
- Czech Airlines
- DHL
- Finnair
- Iberia
- Icelandair
- Jat Airways
- KLM
- LOT
- Lufthansa
- Luxair
- Malev
- Montenegro Airlines
- Olympic Air
- SAS Scandinavian Airlines
- SWISS
- TAP Portugal
- TAROM
- TNT Airways
- Turkish Airlines
- Ukraine International Airlines
- Virgin Atlantic Airways

“Here, we call upon regulators from Turkey and the European Union to discuss ways of further facilitating traffic – for the benefit of consumers at both ends of the market between Turkey and the EU”, said the AEA Secretary General. “The experience of 2009 tells us that the future shape of European aviation will be different to how it has been in the past, and new regulatory structures need to be put in place. For European airlines seeking to regroup and rebuild, a market relatively unaffected by the downturn represents an attractive point of focus”.

For further information, please contact:

David Henderson

Manager Information

Phone : +32(0) 2 639 89 72

Email: david.henderson@aea.be

www.aea.be

Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 36 European established scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 374 million passengers and 7 million tonnes of cargo each year, operating 2,689 aircraft serving 662 destinations in 162 countries with 11,934 flights a day. They provide around 394,200 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €80 billion