



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 4 May 2010

ELFAA urges security charges to be funded by states – not airlines

4 May 2010, Brussels – On the eve of the vote in the European Parliament on aviation security charges, the European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) urges MEPs to back the call for such charges to be paid for by states, not airlines.

“Protecting citizens against what are, in effect, threats against states, is the responsibility of states”, said ELFAA Secretary-General John Hanlon. “Consistent with this, ELFAA strongly believes that the financing of aviation security should rest entirely and unequivocally with states, which are the primary target of any threats.”

“Only states have the intelligence to enable an assessment of the proportionality of measures to threat level and a review of their continued justification. For these reasons, it is unfair to force airlines and their passengers to bear the brunt of these costs.”

In Wednesday’s vote in Brussels the Rapporteur (Lead MEP), Jörg Leichtfried, will be calling for a compromise measure, whereby all incremental security charges, prescribed by individual states, over and above those stipulated as part of the already-mandated EU-wide baseline measures, would be paid for by the Member State concerned.

While states’ responsibility to fund only those additional measures they prescribe falls well short of responsibility to fund all aviation security, which ELFAA believes is justified, ELFAA welcomes the European Parliament’s compromise proposal as a step in the right direction. In the interest of European consumers, ELFAA urges MEPs to vote for it at the plenary session of the Parliament in Brussels on 5 May.

Notes to the editor:

ELFAA represents the fastest-growing European airline sector, its members carry over 160 million passengers a year and accounting for over 35% of scheduled intra-European traffic.

Today, ELFAA comprises 10 airline members which include: Blue Air, easyJet, Flybe, Jet2.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, SverigeFlyg, transavia.com, vueling and Wizz Air.

ELFAA’s primary objective is to ensure that European policy and legislation promote free and equal competition to enable the continued growth and development of low fares into the future, thereby allowing a greater number of people to travel by air.



news

For further information, please contact:

Jessica Adkins

ELFAA Press Office - Grayling

T. +32 (0) 2 50 49 001

M. +32 (0) 4 75 79 1233

E. press@elfaa.com

Register at www.elfaa.com

To receive ELFAA press releases and newsletters as they become available