



PRESS RELEASE

Low fares airlines grow 8.7% in 2009

2 March 2010, Brussels – The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) is proud to announce that last year its members carried 162.5 million passengers, representing an 8.7% increase on the previous year.

“These figures show clearly how ELFAA members are bucking the trend in the aviation sector when it comes to passenger numbers,” said John Hanlon, Secretary-General of the ELFAA. “It also demonstrates beyond any doubt that the economic crisis need not be an excuse for airlines to go cap in hand to governments pleading for unjust cash injections.”

ELFAA members also led the way in job creation, employing an additional 3000 permanent employees in Europe last year, which equates to an increase of 12.5% on 2008. This further underscores the fact that the low-fares sector is well on the way to becoming the principal player in European aviation.

The finalised 2009 figures have been published here:

<http://www.elfaa.com/statistics.htm>

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 11 airline members which include: Blue Air, bmibaby, 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.

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