



news

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ELFAA welcomes new members and celebrates 3rd anniversary

Santander, Spain – 5 October 2006. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA), which represents the fastest growing segment of the European air transport market, today held its 3rd Annual General Meeting and announced two new members.

John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA, said:

“We are delighted to announce that the third year of ELFAA’s successful operation was marked with the welcoming of two new members. With My Way Airlines as a member, ELFAA’s airline representation now extends to Italy, and with Embraer joining Boeing as a premier associate member, the endorsement of the low-cost, low-fare philosophy by the manufacturing industry becomes even more evident. We look forward to working with our new partners to the benefit of the European air transport.

The Annual General Meeting addressed the current threats to the success of the European liberalisation of air transport, which include: the attempts to curb the growth of air transport through misinformed environmental debate; the unwillingness of the European Commission and the Member States to dismantle airport monopolies; the attempts to limit competition amongst regional airports through unnecessary regulation; and the continued discrimination of legislation directed at the air transport sector versus other transport modes. Low fares airlines are the most environmentally sustainable part of air transport and they also deliver huge economic and social benefits in terms of regional development, job creation, tourism, and European integration. We will work with the regulators and with other stakeholders to avoid any misinformed policy that could destroy these most positive results of air transport liberalisation.

ELFAA will continue its engagement in discussions on the above issues to ensure that European citizens are not deprived of their right to air travel at affordable prices.

This year’s Annual General Meeting was run in parallel with the Second Regional Airports Conference organised in Santander by the Government of Cantabria. This reflects the very close relationship between low fares airlines and regional airports all over Europe, which have been revitalised in the past decade thanks to year round point-to-point low-fare services to international destinations offered by the prodigy of liberalisation, the low fares airlines.”

NOTE TO THE EDITORS:

ELFAA airline members include: easyJet, flybe, Hapag-Lloyd Express, My Way Airlines, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sky Europe, Sterling, Sverige Flyg, Transavia.com and Wizz Air. Premier associate members include: Boeing and Embraer.

Low fares services currently account for approximately 30% of scheduled intra-European air traffic with ELFAA members carrying some 100 million passengers per year to over 400 destinations.

For more information about the II Regional Airports Conference visit:
<http://www.aeropuertosregionales.es/home.html>

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