



EU orders Germany, Belgium to recover aid from low-cost airports

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 455 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE aviation EU EU orders Germany, Belgium to recover aid from low-cost airports Brussels
The European Union turned up the heat Wednesday on
airports catering to low-cost airlines, ordering Germany and Belgium
to recoup illegal state aid they granted to two airfields.

"EU state aid rules allow public authorities to grant support to
airports where it is justified," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin
Almunia said in a statement.

"However, duplicating unprofitable airport infrastructure or unduly
favouring certain airlines wastes taxpayers' money and distorts
competition," he added.

At issue are the Charleroi airport near the Belgian capital Brussels
and the now-insolvent Zweibruecken airport in Germany, located about
200 kilometres from Frankfurt.

Charleroi is used mainly by Ryanair, while Zweibruecken caters to
Germanwings, TUIFly and Ryanair. Insolvency proceedings for the
German airport were opened on Wednesday.

Zweibruecken has received support measures amounting to about 47
million euros (59 million dollars) since 2000, according to the
European Commission, the EU's executive.

But the aid "unnecessarily duplicated already existing, unprofitable
airport infrastructure in the same region," the commission found,
pointing to the Saarbruecken airport, some 40 kilometers away. The
support gave Zweibruecken an "undue economic advantage," it said.

Airlines were also given an undue advantage through agreements
concluded with Zweibruecken, the commission found, saying that
Germanwings has to pay back about 1.2 million euros, while Ryanair
and TUIFly owe around 500,000 and 200,000 euros respectively.

EU orders Germany , Belgium to recover aid from low-cost airports

In the case of Charleroi, meanwhile, the airport should pay back 6 million euros, the commission said, saying that competition was significantly distorted by aid granted since 2002, which helped the airfield to "develop considerably."

The commission has also launched an investigation into Charleroi's main competitor, the Zaventem airport in Brussels. At issue is a 19-million-euro yearly state support scheme granted to the airfield for 2014-16.

Most of the funds are reportedly going to the national carrier Brussels Airlines.

"The commission has concerns that this measure would lead to public money being used to fund ordinary operating costs of selected airlines without furthering any objective of common interest," the EU institution said.

Notebook

Internet links

- [European Commission press release](<http://dpaq.de/aJUSS>)
- [European Commission memo](<http://dpaq.de/ve00j>)

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Lufthansa pilots plan Tuesday strike at Frankfurt airport

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September 29, 2014 Monday 7:05 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 284 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany labour aviation Lufthansa Lufthansa pilots plan Tuesday strike at Frankfurt airport Frankfurt

Lufthansa pilots are to go on strike Tuesday for the fifth time this year amid an ongoing row over retirement benefits.

The pilots' union, Vereinigung Cockpit, announced Monday that the industrial action will take place at Frankfurt airport, Germany's largest, from 8 am to 11 pm (0600 to 2100 GMT).

Travellers will face fresh disruptions as long-haul flights will be affected. The union said it was forced to resort to such measures as talks with the Lufthansa management were deadlocked and it had not offered a compromise.

The group's pilots have already walked off the job four times this year over Lufthansa's plans to scrap its current retirement benefits scheme.

Those strikes resulted in the cancellation of 4,300 flights and forced hundreds of thousands of passengers to face lengthy delays or make alternative transport arrangements.

The 5,400 pilots employed at Lufthansa, its budget offshoot Germanwings and Lufthansa Cargo want the company to maintain its current retirement benefits system, under which they can retire at 55 and continue to receive part of their wages.

Like other European carriers, Lufthansa is battling to reduce costs in the face of stiff competition from budget airlines such as EasyJet and Ryanair as well as new emerging Middle East carriers, including Abu Dhabi-based Etihad and Dubai-based Emirates.

Lufthansa pilots plan Tuesday strike at Frankfurt airport

Notebook

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1ST LEAD



1ST LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 499 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany labour aviation Lufthansa 1ST LEAD
Lufthansa pilots plan walkout as Air France ends two-week strike
By dpa correspondents =

Frankfurt (dpa) - Lufthansa pilots are planning a walkout on Tuesday for the fifth time this year over retirement benefits, just as pilots at Air France end a two-week strike over that airline's cost-cutting plans.

Lufthansa pilots' union, Vereinigung Cockpit, said Monday that the industrial action would take place at Frankfurt airport, Germany's largest, from 8 am to 11 pm (0600 to 2100 GMT).

Travellers will face fresh disruptions as long-haul flights will be affected. The union said services on Airbus A380, A330, A340 and Boeing B747 would be hit.

It said it was forced to resort to such measures as talks with the Lufthansa management were deadlocked and it had not offered a compromise.

The group's pilots have already walked off the job four times this year over Lufthansa's plans to scrap its current retirement benefits scheme.

Those strikes resulted in the cancellation of 4,300 flights and forced hundreds of thousands of passengers to face lengthy delays or make alternative transport arrangements.

The strike call comes a day after the largest pilots' union at Air France called off a strike that had lasted two weeks, costing the airline more than 200 million euros, according to management.

The SNPL union said it was ending the walkout out of a "sense of responsibility," despite failing to reach agreement with the carrier on the development of its low-cost subsidiary Transavia.

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The pilots had been severely criticized for their perceived intransigence by the government, media and Air France ground staff.

The airline, which was forced to cancel thousands of flights, welcomed the end of the protest and said the flight schedule would "gradually return to normal" from Tuesday.

The pilots are pushing for a single contract for all Air France pilots that would also cover those at Transavia, its discount division which Air France aims to develop into a rival of low-cost operators such as Ryanair and Easyjet.

Air France has rejected their demands, saying it needs to cut costs to compete in the competitive European leisure travel market.

Lufthansa, too, is battling to reduce costs in the face of stiff competition from budget airlines and new emerging Middle East carriers, including Abu Dhabi-based Etihad and Dubai-based Emirates.

The 5,400 pilots employed at Lufthansa, its budget offshoot Germanwings and Lufthansa Cargo want the company to maintain its current retirement benefits system, under which they can retire at 55 and continue to receive part of their wages.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Adds Air France pilots call off strike

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Czech Airlines to lay off a third of staff citing Ukraine crisis

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 24, 2014 Wednesday 2:46 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 214 words

Dateline: Prague

Body

DPA FINANCE Czech Republic business Czech Airlines to lay off a third of staff citing Ukraine crisis Prague

The Czech Republic's largest airline is to lay off a third of its 900-strong staff, the company said on Wednesday, citing a drop in demand due to the stand-off between Ukraine and Russia.

A spokesman said the lay-offs - which are set to include pilots - became necessary after passenger numbers from Russia and other former Soviet republics declined due to the crisis in Ukraine.

Union representatives said the restructuring threatened the very existence of the airline, adding that they were prepared to organize a strike.

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka also raised concerns over the plan, and said his predecessors' decision to partly privatize the company had been a failure.

The airline, co-owned by Korean Air, has been shedding assets in an attempt to reverse the losses resulting from a failed expansion several years ago.

Like many European carriers, it is facing competition from low-budget airlines including Ryanair and easyJet.

Notebook

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Czech Airlines to lay off a third of staff citing Ukraine crisis

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Air France makes pilots «final offer» to resolve week-old strike

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September 22, 2014 Monday 10:52 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 370 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France labour transport Air France makes pilots «final offer» to resolve week-old strike
Paris

Air France-KLM CEO Alexandre de Juniac urged striking French pilots Monday to accept the airline's "final offer" for the resolution of a week-old industrial dispute that has cost the airline tens of millions of dollars.

Over half of Air France's pilots walked out on September 15 in protest over the airline's plans for the development of its low-cost subsidiary, Transavia.

At issue is the airline's plans to hire Transavia pilots on local contracts in southern Europe.

After days of deadlocked talks and thousands of cancelled flights Air France management on Monday proposed to suspend the plan until the end of the year.

Delaying the project would give the airline "time to hold an in-depth dialogue on the project and to create the necessary guarantees for the unions" on jobs, de Juniac said.

The main pilots union SNPL, which announced Saturday it was extending the strike until September 26, had yet to respond to the offer.

The strike is the longest by Air France pilots since 1998.

De Juniac estimated the cost to the airline of cancelling around two-thirds of its scheduled flights at 15-20 million euros a day.

"With what we have lost we could have bought four medium-range aircraft," he complained, labelling the dispute "disastrous for the company as it starts to get back on its feet."

Air France makes pilots «final offer» to resolve week-old strike

Air France had just begun to rebound after years of heavy losses and thousands of job cuts.

Ground staff, who have borne the brunt of recent restructuring plans, have expressed frustration with the pilots' reluctance to share in the sacrifices.

With Transavia the airline aims to go up against Ryanair, Easyjet and other low-cost carriers in the European leisure travel market.

De Juniac said the pilots needed to recognize the demands of competing at the low-cost end of the market, including on wage costs.

Notebook

Internet links

- [De Juniac interview with Le Monde](<http://dpaq.de/Jdf7a>)

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1ST LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 428 words

Body

DPA FINANCE France labour transport 1ST LEAD

Air France pilots reject proposal to resolve week-old strike

By Clare Byrne, dpa =

Paris (dpa) - Striking Air France pilots on Monday rejected a management proposal aimed at ending an eight-day-old strike that has grounded thousands of flights and cost the airline tens of millions of dollars.

The pilots dismissed an offer from the carrier in which it would suspend controversial plans for the development of its low-cost subsidiary, Transavia. They demanded instead that Air France scrap the plan entirely.

"The conditions are clearly not there for a project of this size to be implemented calmly," the president of the main SNPL pilots union, Jean-Louis Barber, told a press conference.

At issue is Air France's plans to hire Transavia pilots in southern Europe on local contracts that are less advantageous than those enjoyed by pilots at the main carrier.

Air France-KLM chief executive Alexandre de Juniac said the airline's offer to hold over the plan until the end of the year while negotiations continued was its "final offer."

The strike - which began on September 15 for one week but was later extended until September 26 - is the longest by Air France pilots since 1998.

De Juniac estimated the cost to the airline of cancelling around two-thirds of its scheduled flights at 15-20 million euros (19-26 million dollars) a day.

"With what we have lost, we could have bought four medium-range aircraft," he complained in an interview with Le Monde, labelling the

1ST LEAD

dispute "disastrous for the company as it starts to get back on its feet."

Air France had just begun to rebound after years of heavy losses which prompted thousands of job cuts.

Ground staff, who have borne the brunt of recent restructuring plans, have expressed frustration with the pilots' reluctance to share in the sacrifices.

With Transavia, which serves mainly southern European destinations, the airline aims to go up against Ryanair, Easyjet and other low-cost carriers in the European leisure travel market.

De Juniac said the pilots needed to recognize the demands of competing at the low-cost end of the market, including on wage costs.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Updates with pilots refusing management offer to suspend Transavia development plan

Internet links

- [De Juniac interview with Le Monde](<http://dpaq.de/Jdf7a>)

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French government urges Air France pilots to end crippling strike

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September 17, 2014 Wednesday 1:30 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 376 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA POLITICS France labour transport French government urges Air France pilots to end crippling strike
Paris

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls called on Air France pilots Wednesday to end a three-day-old strike which has grounded scores of flights, costing the airline millions of euros in lost revenue and reimbursements.

"This labour dispute must end. I'm asking Air France pilots to stop this dispute and sit down at the [negotiating] table and move forward," the Socialist premier told France Inter radio.

Valls said it was "regrettable that a single category, the pilots, can bring air transport in the country to a halt."

The pilots began a week-long strike on Monday to protest the airline's plans for its low-cost subsidiary, Transavia.

The pilots say the company's intention to base Transavia crews around Europe will lead to job losses in France - claims Air France rejects.

Several days of negotiations have failed to end the deadlock.

Around 60 per cent of the carrier's pilots have walked off the job, forcing Air France to cancel a similar proportion of flights.

Domestic flights in France appeared to be the worst affected, with as many as 90 per cent cancelled at some regional airports Wednesday.

A spokesperson for the airline told dpa that it was trying to maintain as many long-haul flights as possible.

Air France says the work stoppage is costing it between 10 and 15 million euros (13 and 19 million dollars) a day, excluding reimbursements for passengers demanding their money back.

French government urges Air France pilots to end crippling strike

Ground staff, who have borne the brunt of several rounds of job cuts in the past two years, have expressed frustration with the pilots.

Laurent Berger, leader of Air France's main union for ground staff CFDT, accused the pilots Tuesday of refusing to share in the efforts made by other staff towards turning around the loss-making carrier.

Air France plans to develop Transavia to make up lost ground in the European low-budget travel market, which is dominated by carriers such as Ryanair and Easyjet.

Notebook

Internet links

- [Air France strike update](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)

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1ST LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 427 words

Body

DPA FINANCE France labour transport 1ST LEAD
Striking French pilots under fire as 1,800 flights nixed
By Clare Byrne, dpa =

Paris (dpa) - French Prime Minister Manuel Valls called on Air France pilots Wednesday to end a three-day-old strike which has grounded 1,800 flights so far, costing the airline millions of euros.

"This labour dispute must end. I'm asking Air France pilots to stop this dispute and sit down at the [negotiating] table and move forward," the Socialist premier told France Inter radio.

Valls said it was "regrettable that a single category, the pilots, can bring air transport in the country to a halt."

The pilots began a week-long strike on Monday to protest the airline's plans for its low-cost subsidiary, Transavia.

Air France plans to develop Transavia to make up lost ground in the European low-budget travel market, which is dominated by carriers such as Ryanair and EasyJet.

The pilots fear the company's intention to base Transavia crews around Europe will lead to job losses in France.

Several days of negotiations have failed to end the deadlock.

Around 60 per cent of the carrier's pilots have walked off the job, forcing Air France to cancel a similar proportion of flights.

An Air France spokeswoman estimated the number of flights cancelled between Monday and Wednesday at 1,800.

The strike, which is to run through September 22, is shaping up as the most disruptive at Air France since 1998.

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The airline says the work stoppage is costing it between 10 and 15 million euros (13 and 19 million dollars) a day, excluding reimbursements for stranded passengers. Many passengers took up the option to postpone their flight free of charge.

The strike comes as the Air France-KLM group was just starting to rebound after a few disastrous years, marked by heavy losses.

Last year, the group turned an operating profit for the first time in three years.

Ground staff, who have borne the brunt of recent restructuring plans, expressed frustration with the pilots.

Laurent Berger, leader of the CFDT, which is Air France's main union for ground staff, accused the pilots of refusing to share in the sacrifices needed to turning around the ailing carrier.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Adds 1,800 flights cancelled between Monday and Wednesday.
- epa photos

Internet links

- [Air France strike update](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)

* * * *

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Air France pilots dig in on day two of strike

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Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe labour transport Air France pilots dig in on day two of strike Paris
A strike by pilots at Air France, which has grounded more than half of the airline's flights, entered a second day Tuesday with no sign of a resolution.

Air France said it was forced to cancel 60 per cent of its scheduled flights on Tuesday and Wednesday, up from 48 per cent on Monday, as six in 10 pilots stayed away in protest at the airline's plans for the development of its low-cost business.

The strike, which is to run through September 22, threatens to be the most disruptive at Air France since 1998.

The pilots say that Air France's plans to develop its low-cost subsidiary Transavia will lead to job losses in France and force crews to accept lower pay.

Air France sees Transavia as its only hope of muscling back in on the leisure travel market, where the French carrier is being outdistanced by low-cost carriers such as Ryanair and Easyjet.

"It's Transavia or it's decline in Europe," the chief executive of the Air France-KLM group, Alexandre de Juniac, told RTL radio.

In a first concession to the pilots, the airline said it would cap its expansion of its Transavia fleet at 30 aircraft by 2019, instead of 37 as originally proposed. At the moment, Transavia has 14.

Despite the disruptions, there were no scenes of chaos at French airports. Most Air France passengers had either chosen to postpone their travel or booked themselves onto competing carriers.

In Germany, meanwhile, a threatened strike Tuesday by Lufthansa pilots, which could have further complicated air travel in Europe,

Air France pilots dig in on day two of strike

was called off at the last minute.

The Cockpit pilots union, which is protesting the airline's plans for a new early-retirement scheme, said Lufthansa had presented a new offer that was "worth discussing."

The strike would have been the fourth by Lufthansa pilots in three weeks.

Notebook

Internet links

- [Europe 1 radio interview with pilots union boss](<http://dpaq.de/axvwV>)
- [RTL interview with CEO of Air France-KLM](<http://dpaq.de/GYPA4>)

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3RD LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 540 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe labour transport 3RD LEAD

Lufthansa pilots nix Tuesday strike as Air France pilots stay away

By Clare Byrne and Andrew McCathie, dpa =

Frankfurt/Paris (dpa) - German pilots union Cockpit has called off a strike scheduled for Tuesday due to advances in negotiations with Lufthansa, the union said late Monday.

The surprising development came on the eve of a plan by pilots to walk off the job for the fourth time in three weeks as part of a campaign to head off a new early-retirement scheme.

The airline sent the pilots a new set of conditions for the plan, prompting the pilots' bargaining committee to call off Tuesday's strike and offer dates for new rounds of negotiations.

Cockpit spokesman Joerg Handwerg told dpa that Lufthansa had presented a "modified offer" that was "worth discussing." He said that it was not clear whether the concession would be enough to resolve the labour dispute.

Pilots at the airline's main Frankfurt hub were to strike for eight hours starting 9 am (0700 GMT) Tuesday. The airline now expects its flight schedule will be mostly normal.

Last week, Lufthansa was forced to cancel about 140 flights at Munich Airport because of a strike. That followed industrial action last month by pilots at Frankfurt Airport and a strike by pilots working for Lufthansa's budget offshoot, Germanwings.

Pilots with Air France meanwhile began a week-long strike, forcing the airline to cancel nearly half of its flights Monday.

Some 60 per cent of Air France pilots walked off the job over management's proposal to introduce lower wage packages for crews working at Air France's low-cost subsidiary, Transavia.

3RD LEAD

The strike, which is to run through September 22, is shaping up as the most disruptive at Air France since 1998.

At Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, the airline's counters were swamped by stranded passengers looking to be rebooked on other flights.

Air France, which is compensating passengers for cancelled flights, estimated the strike would set the company back between 10 and 15 million euros (13 million to 19 million dollars) a day.

Both Air France and Lufthansa are trying to cut costs to compete with Ryanair, Vueling and other budget carriers.

Lufthansa wants to scrap a retirement plan under which its 5,400 pilots can retire at 55 and continue to receive part of their wages.

Air France wants to hire crews on smaller pay to build up its low-cost business at Transavia. Air France pilots are demanding a single contract for all the group's pilots.

The strike comes as the Air France-KLM group is starting to turn a corner after years of heavy losses, which had prompted thousands of job cuts.

Last year, the group turned an operating profit for the first time in three years. The group aims to achieve net profits by the end of 2015.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Updates with Lufthansa calling off Tuesday strike

Internet links

- [Air France press release](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)
- [Lufthansa](<http://dpaq.de/bWcmY>)

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Air France cancels half its flights as pilots go on week-long strike

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Length: 202 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France labour transport Air France cancels half its flights as pilots go on week-long strike
Paris

Air France said it had cancelled nearly half its
scheduled flights Monday as pilots began a week-long strike.

Major disruptions are expected for the duration of the strike, which
is expected to run from September 15 to 22.

Air France, which has warned passengers to rebook flights, estimates
that the cost of the strike would range between 10 to 15 million
euros (13 million to 19 million dollars).

The pilots' action was triggered by the company's plans to lower
annual costs by more than a billion euros by transferring short- and
medium-haul flights to low-budget subsidiary Transavia.

Air France-KLM has in recent years reacted to continuing losses by
shedding thousands of jobs. The French-Dutch partnership has by hit
from heavy competition from budget airlines such as easyJet, Ryanair
and Vueling.

Notebook

Internet links

- [Air France press release](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)

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Air France cancels half its flights as pilots go on week-long strike

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1ST LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

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Body

DPA FINANCE Europe labour transport 1ST LEAD

Air France, Lufthansa buffeted by strikes

By Clare Byrne and Andrew McCathie, dpa =

Paris (dpa) - European air traffic was poised for major disruptions Monday as Air France pilots embarked on a week-long strike, forcing the airline to cancel nearly half its flights, and Lufthansa pilots also announced renewed industrial action.

Some 60 per cent of Air France pilots walked off the job Monday over management's proposal to introduce lower wage packages for crews working at Air France's low-cost Transavia subsidiary.

The strike, which is to run through September 22, is shaping up as the most disruptive at Air France since 1998.

At Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris the airline's counters were swamped by stranded passengers looking to be rebooked on other flights.

Air France, which is compensating passengers for cancelled flights, estimated the strike would set the company back between 10 and 15 million euros (13 million to 19 million dollars) a day, affecting profits.

Lufthansa pilots, meanwhile, announced they would strike Tuesday for the fourth time in three weeks as part of a campaign to head off a planned new early retirement scheme.

Pilots at the airline's main Frankfurt hub will walk out at 9 am (0700 GMT) on Tuesday, the Vereinigung Cockpit union announced.

"As Lufthansa management has not put forward an offer that is suitable for a compromise, we see ourselves forced to take further action," the union said.

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The German airline said it was working on an emergency travel plan to ease the impact of the strike, which could result in the cancellation of up to 40 flights.

"The VC has lost all sense," said a Lufthansa spokesman. "Their target is the passenger."

Last week, Lufthansa was forced to cancel about 140 flights at Munich Airport.

This followed industrial action by pilots also at Frankfurt Airport and a strike last month by pilots working for Lufthansa's budget offshoot Germanwings.

Both Air France and Lufthansa are trying to cut costs to compete with the likes of Ryanair, Vueling and other budget carriers.

Lufthansa wants to scrap a retirement plan under which its 5,400 pilots can retire at 55 and continue to receive part of their wages.

Air France wants to hire crews on smaller pay to build up its low-cost business at Transavia.

In both cases, the pilots are resisting the changes.

Air France pilots are demanding a single contract for all the group's pilots.

The strike comes as the Air France-KLM group was starting to turn a corner after years of heavy losses that prompted thousands of job cuts.

Last year, the group turned an operating profit for the first time in three years. The group aims to achieve net profits by the end of 2015.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Combines with Lufthansa strike call story

Internet links

- [Air France press release](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)

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2ND LEAD

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 524 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe labour transport 2ND LEAD

Air France, Lufthansa buffeted by strikes

By Clare Byrne and Andrew McCathie, dpa =

Paris (dpa) - European air traffic was poised for major disruptions Monday as Air France pilots embarked on a week-long strike, forcing the airline to cancel nearly half of its flights, while Lufthansa pilots also announced renewed industrial action.

Some 60 per cent of Air France pilots walked off the job over management's proposal to introduce lower wage packages for crews working at Air France's low-cost subsidiary, Transavia.

The strike, which is to run through September 22, is shaping up as the most disruptive at Air France since 1998.

At Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, the airline's counters were swamped by stranded passengers looking to be rebooked on other flights.

Air France, which is compensating passengers for cancelled flights, estimated the strike would set the company back between 10 and 15 million euros (13 million to 19 million dollars) a day, affecting profits.

Lufthansa pilots, meanwhile, announced they would walk out Tuesday for the fourth time in three weeks as part of a campaign to head off plans for a new early retirement scheme.

Pilots at the airline's main Frankfurt hub will strike for eight hours from 9 am (0700 GMT) on Tuesday, the Vereinigung Cockpit union announced.

"As Lufthansa management has not put forward an offer that is suitable for a compromise, we see ourselves forced to take further action," the union said.

2ND LEAD

The German airline said all long-haul flights hit by the strike would operate, but stressed that passengers could expect delays.

"The VC has lost all sense," said a Lufthansa spokesman. "Their target is the passenger."

Last week, Lufthansa was forced to cancel about 140 flights at Munich Airport.

This followed industrial action by pilots also at Frankfurt Airport and a strike last month by pilots working for Lufthansa's budget offshoot Germanwings.

Both Air France and Lufthansa are trying to cut costs to compete with the likes of Ryanair, Vueling and other budget carriers.

Lufthansa wants to scrap a retirement plan under which its 5,400 pilots can retire at the age of 55 and continue to receive part of their wages.

Air France wants to hire crews on smaller pay to build up its low-cost business at Transavia.

In both cases, the pilots are resisting the changes.

Air France pilots are demanding a single contract for all the group's pilots.

The strike comes as the Air France-KLM group is starting to turn a corner after years of heavy losses that prompted thousands of job cuts.

Last year, the group turned an operating profit for the first time in three years. The group aims to achieve net profits by the end of 2015.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Adds Lufthansa statement in graf 9

Internet links

- [Air France press release](<http://dpaq.de/445Ey>)
- [Lufthansa](<http://dpaq.de/bWcmY>)

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Sep 1514 1519 GMT

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Ryanair to buy Boeing planes worth 11 billion dollars

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 8, 2014 Monday 10:18 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 226 words

Dateline: Los Angeles

Body

DPA FINANCE US Europe aviation Ryanair to buy Boeing planes worth 11 billion dollars Los Angeles
European airline Ryanair signed an agreement to
buy 100 jets from US airplane manufacturer Boeing, both companies
announced on their websites Monday.

The transaction, valued at 11 billion dollars, involves Boeing's new
737 Max 200 airplanes. Ryanair has the option to purchase an
additional 100 new 737 Max 200 planes, which could double the value
of the deal.

The low-cost carrier will be the first airline to operate the 737 Max
200, which can be configured to accommodate up to 200 seats and
provide up to 20 per cent better fuel efficiency per seat than
single-aisle airplanes now in use, the statement said.

"Ryanair is proud and honoured to become the lead operator of
Boeing's 'game changer' 737 Max 200 aircraft, which will expand our
fleet to 520 aircraft by 2024," said Ryanair chief executive Michael
O'Leary in the statement.

Boeing developed the 737 Max 200 to better accommodate the needs of
the fast growing low-cost sector.

Notebook

Internet links

- [Boeing Statement](<http://dpaq.de/ZEEc5>)
- [Ryanair Statement](<http://dpaq.de/mQ4fE>)

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The following information is not intended for publication

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Ryanair to buy Boeing planes worth 11 billion dollars

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1ST LEAD

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 5, 2014 Friday 4:21 PM EST

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Length: 666 words

Body

DPA x Germany labour transport 1ST LEAD
Lufthansa pilots strike, flights for 25,000 passengers cancelled
By Jean-Baptiste Piggin, dpa =

Frankfurt (dpa) - Pilots at German airline Lufthansa went on strike for six hours late on Friday, forcing the cancellation of more than 200 scheduled flights and disrupting travel for 25,000 passengers.

Vereinigung Cockpit, the pilots' labour union, has been in months of negotiations with the carrier over the terms of an early retirement scheme.

Its members were refusing short and medium-haul take-offs from Frankfurt Airport, Lufthansa's hub, until 11 pm (2100 GMT) Friday. Late-night departures are banned at Frankfurt, so operations were not set to resume until early Saturday.

Adding to transport snarls in Germany, a railway engineers' union, the GDL, announced Friday that its members would refuse to drive trains on Saturday from 6 am to 9 am as it pursues wage claims against the main rail company, Deutsche Bahn.

Lufthansa had been relying on main-line express trains to help clear some of the backlog from cancelled domestic flights.

The airline reserved 2,200 Frankfurt-area hotel rooms for stranded travellers and was setting up 500 camp beds inside the airport transit zone to accommodate any stranded passengers who lack visas to leave the airport and enter the city to stay at hotels.

Lufthansa said the stoppage would cost it "millions of euros" but refused to budge on the union's retirement plan claims.

The listed airline insists it must slash labour costs to remain competitive against both low-cost European carriers such as RyanAir and EasyJet and up-and-coming long-haul carriers such as Emirates and Etihad.

1ST LEAD

While union members refused to fly jets to German and European destinations out of Frankfurt, long-haul flights were not affected.

In response, Lufthansa scratched more than 200 flights from its Friday schedule, including Frankfurt-bound flights departing three or more hours earlier from other European capitals. The European network was completely grounded an hour before the strike began.

Lufthansa said the pre-emptive cancellations were necessary so that the airline could quickly resume normal services on Saturday.

Past strikes have left jets or crews stranded at the wrong airports, meaning disruptions continued even after the pilots ceased striking.

Lufthansa said it had sent out 14,000 text messages offering assistance to those passengers who had registered their mobile phone numbers with the airline. It offered rebookings on other dates, on other airlines or on trains for the shorter domestic connections.

Lufthansa criticized the union for striking on an end-of-summer weekend when thousands of families are flying home to Germany from vacations abroad and require onward domestic connections. School holidays end this weekend in three out of 16 German states.

"That is an especial disgrace," said airline spokesman Andreas Bartels on ZDF breakfast television.

The union is demanding full reinstatement of a benefit that formerly allowed pilots to choose early retirement at 60 on partial pay. The airline wants to wind up the benefit so fit pilots keep flying until 65.

A week earlier, the same union held a six-hour strike that hit planes operated by Germanwings, a low-budget subsidiary of Lufthansa. That strike took down 116 out of 164 scheduled departures, affecting 15,000 passengers.

Germans have been divided in response to strikes. Strikers who complain about stagnant incomes after years of economic austerity in Germany often gain public support. However pilots, who are among the best-paid labour groups, have garnered much less public sympathy.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Releads with start of strike; adds cost, precautionary hotel bookings, camp beds and text messages; epa photos

* * * *

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1ST LEAD

End of Document



2ND LEAD

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 5, 2014 Friday 9:37 PM EST

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Length: 700 words

Body

DPA x Germany labour transport 2ND LEAD
Lufthansa pilots strike ends after cancellation of 200 flights
By Jean-Baptiste Piggin, dpa =

Frankfurt (dpa) - Pilots at German airline Lufthansa went on strike for six hours late on Friday, forcing the cancellation of more than 200 scheduled flights and disrupting travel for 26,000 passengers.

Vereinigung Cockpit, the pilots' labour union, has been in months of negotiations with the carrier over the terms of an early retirement scheme.

Its members refused short and medium-haul take-offs from Frankfurt Airport, Lufthansa's hub, until 11 pm (2100 GMT) Friday. Late-night departures are banned at Frankfurt, so operations were not set to resume until early Saturday.

A total of 218 flights were canceled, including 59 flights originating from Frankfurt that were canceled before the strike began.

Adding to transport snarls in Germany, a railway engineers' union, the GDL, announced Friday that its members would refuse to drive trains on Saturday from 6 am to 9 am as it pursues wage claims against the main rail company, Deutsche Bahn.

Lufthansa had been relying on main-line express trains to help clear some of the backlog from cancelled domestic flights.

The airline reserved 2,200 Frankfurt-area hotel rooms for stranded travellers and was setting up 500 camp beds inside the airport transit zone to accommodate any stranded passengers who lack visas to leave the airport and enter the city to stay at hotels.

Lufthansa said the stoppage would cost it "millions of euros" but refused to budge on the union's retirement plan claims.

The listed airline insists it must slash labour costs to remain

2ND LEAD

competitive against both low-cost European carriers such as RyanAir and EasyJet and up-and-coming long-haul carriers such as Emirates and Etihad.

While union members refused to fly jets to German and European destinations out of Frankfurt, long-haul flights were not affected.

In response, Lufthansa scratched more than 200 flights from its Friday schedule, including Frankfurt-bound flights departing three or more hours earlier from other European capitals. The European network was completely grounded an hour before the strike began.

Lufthansa said the pre-emptive cancellations were necessary so that the airline could quickly resume normal services on Saturday.

Past strikes have left jets or crews stranded at the wrong airports, meaning disruptions continued even after the pilots ceased striking.

Lufthansa said it had sent out 14,000 text messages offering assistance to those passengers who had registered their mobile phone numbers with the airline. It offered rebookings on other dates, on other airlines or on trains for the shorter domestic connections.

Lufthansa criticized the union for striking on an end-of-summer weekend when thousands of families are flying home to Germany from vacations abroad and require onward domestic connections. School holidays end this weekend in three out of 16 German states.

"That is an especial disgrace," said airline spokesman Andreas Bartels on ZDF breakfast television.

The union is demanding full reinstatement of a benefit that formerly allowed pilots to choose early retirement at 60 on partial pay. The airline wants to wind up the benefit so fit pilots keep flying until 65.

A week earlier, the same union held a six-hour strike that hit planes operated by Germanwings, a low-budget subsidiary of Lufthansa. That strike took down 116 out of 164 scheduled departures, affecting 15,000 passengers.

Germans have been divided in response to strikes. Strikers who complain about stagnant incomes after years of economic austerity in Germany often gain public support. However pilots, who are among the best-paid labour groups, have garnered much less public sympathy.

Notebook

Note to editors

- Updates with number of flights affected, end of strike; epa photos

Internet links

- [Vereinigung Cockpit](<http://dpaq.de/vb4G1>)

- [Lufthansa - list of canceled flights](<http://dpaq.de/j1lEd>)

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2ND LEAD

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Ryanair to bid for Cyprus Airways

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 27, 2014 Wednesday 12:41 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 201 words

Dateline: Athens

Body

DPA FINANCE Cyprus aviation Greece Ryanair to bid for Cyprus Airways Athens
Low-cost airline Ryanair on Wednesday said it plans to
bid for Cyprus Airways before a deadline in the next 24-hours.

Ryanair's chief marketing officer, Kenny Jacobs, told the BBC that a
"very positive meeting" was held with the Cypriot government and the
airline last week.

Ryanair is among fifteen companies that have submitted non-binding
expressions of interest in the loss-making airline, which is under
the control of the Cypriot government.

The Cypriot government owns more than 90 per cent of Cyprus Airways,
which has struggled to survive against cheaper competitors.

According to the newspaper Cyprus Mail, the Communication and Works
Ministry will evaluate all business plans. Companies that make the
shortlist will then be asked to file binding proposals.

The airline's new owner should be announced by the beginning of
October.

Notebook

Internet links

- [EFSF statement](<http://dpaq.de/bKx5c>)

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Ryanair to bid for Cyprus Airways

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EU orders France to recoup nearly 10 million euros from Ryanair

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 23, 2014 Wednesday 4:57 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 374 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE France business aviation EU EU orders France to recoup nearly 10 million euros from Ryanair Brussels

The European Union ordered France on Wednesday to recoup almost 10 million euros (13 million dollars) from low-cost airline Ryanair, finding that the airline was given an illegal competitive advantage at three airports in the country.

"EU state aid rules ... allow public authorities to grant support where it is justified, namely where it improves the accessibility of a region and meets citizens' transport needs," EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia said in a statement.

"However, taxpayers' money should not be used to grant an undue advantage to certain airlines, distorting competition," he added.

At issue are contractual rebates, marketing arrangements and service agreements granted to Ryanair and a subsidiary, Airport Marketing Services, at regional airports in Angouleme, Nimes and Pau.

"These agreements could not have been reasonably expected to improve the financial situation of the airport when they were entered into. No private operator would have accepted to grant similar conditions," the commission said in a statement.

It ordered Ryanair to repay approximately 868,000 euros in the case of the Angouleme airport, 2.4 million euros in the case of the Pau airport, and 6.4 million euros in the case of the Nimes airport.

At the Pau airport, the commission also found that low-cost carrier Transavia gained an undue economic advantage through a contract signed in 2006. France was told to recoup 400,000 euros from that airline.

Benefits granted at regional airports have long been on the radar of

EU orders France to recoup nearly 10 million euros from Ryanair

EU regulators.

Separately on Wednesday, the commission closed investigations into state aid at six regional airports, approving support that was given to the three French airports, as well as to the German airports of Dortmund, Leipzig Halle and Niederrhein-Weeze.

dpa Notebook

Internet links

- [EU Commission press release](<http://dpaq.de/NRx4m>)
- [EU Commission memo](<http://dpaq.de/bxRZY>)

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Jul 2314 1657 GMT

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Cheap flights: Pegasus is Europe's most inexpensive airline

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 14, 2014 Monday 3:15 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 185 words

Dateline: Brno, Czech Republic

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT tourism special travel Cheap flights: Pegasus is Europe's most inexpensive airline Brno, Czech Republic
The Turkish company Pegasus Airlines
offers the most inexpensive flights on average within Europe.

With an average per-flight price of 64.64 euros (87.89 dollars),
Pegasus earned the top spot both with the basic price without baggage
(20 kg) and with baggage. That was the result of a study by the
comparison portal whichairline.com.

Second place without baggage went to the Irish company Ryanair, with
an average cost of 65.67 euros.

With flights including baggage, the Irish company drops to sixth
place with an average of 100.67 euros, behind Air Lituanica (81.36
euros), Vueling (97.24 euros), Germanwings (98.99 euros) and Wizz Air
(100.62 euros).

The portal evaluated more than 3.2 million queries from April to June
for flights starting in July.

dpa Notebook

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Cheap flights: Pegasus is Europe's most inexpensive airline

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British airline does away with reclining seats

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 23, 2014 Monday 3:55 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 181 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT tourism special travel British airline does away with reclining seats London
That annoying passenger ahead of you who abruptly
reclines his seat and ruins your flight may soon be a thing of a past
on short hauls as airlines refit.

Monarch Airlines, a British company, is already ripping out their
reclining seats and putting in seats that ensure more room for the
passenger behind by remaining upright, according to Monarch's
marketing boss Tim Williamson.

Ninety per cent of Monarch passengers voted to ban them, he said.

Monarch is not the only airline planning the move. Europe's biggest
carrier, the budget line Ryanair, is among others getting ready for
the change. Short-haul airlines are gradually reducing the space
between all their seats so they can pack more passengers into jets.

dpa Notebook

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Jun 23 14 0355 GMT

Load-Date: June 23, 2014

British airline does away with reclining seats

End of Document



Space is money: The battle for every centimetre in economy class

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 9, 2014 Monday 3:15 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 817 words

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT tourism special travel Space is money: The battle for every centimetre in economy class

By Jan Ahrenberg, dpa =

Hamburg (dpa) - Discount air travel: good for your pocketbook, but potentially lethal? If you read all the chat comments on travel blog sites, you might come away with the impression that people can count themselves lucky to survive economy class alive.

The cramped seating - so the general view - impairs blood circulation, in turn leading to thromboses.

In fact, cheap travel is uncomfortable, but rarely deadly. It's all really about the airlines' bottom line - space is money. The cheaper you fly, the less elbow, knee and head-room you'll be offered.

"The layout of the passenger cabin is mainly determined by each airline's business model," notes Ralf God, head of the institute of airline cabin systems at Hamburg-Harburg Polytechnical University.

He says airlines are feverishly searching for ways to squeeze more seats into an airplane in order to reduce costs and cut carbon dioxide emissions. In this quest, even the weight of the seats is now being reviewed.

"In the cabins of Lufthansa, there are seat models coming into use which are basically just metal frames covered with fabric. They are almost like garden chairs," God says. Such seats are 3.8 kilograms lighter than the older models.

With the economy class of an Airbus having 120 seats, this means a weight saving of almost half a ton. The airline says that this could mean reducing kerosene consumption by 43 tons per airplane per year.

A passenger might be impressed about the better environmental impact

Space is money: The battle for every centimetre in economy class

of his new seat, but it often means that he'll be occupying just 75 centimetres of space, as measured from one seat back to the next seat back. This distance is known as "seat pitch."

There are some ways to get a tiny bit more room in economy class, as Andrew Wong of the air travel advisory portal Seat Guru points out, but you'll need to understand the basics of seating layout before you book.

The most common planes in use nowadays are the Boeing 737 and Airbus A320, conventionally with a layout of six seats across - three on each side of a central aisle. The seats usually offer 74 to 79 centimetres of pitch in coach class.

That's not very generous, but survivable on short flights, say of two to three hours.

The tightest legally permissible pitch is 71 centimetres, which the Irish-based discount carrier Ryanair takes the most advantage of, Wong points out.

Those seeking to maximize comfort on short-haul flights should pay more attention to their seat allocation than to the name of the airline, because just about every carrier is miserly with seat pitch.

Seats behind a cabin bulkhead or in the row where the emergency exit is located are the ones to ask for, because of their extra leg room.

But they are quickly booked out for the same reason.

On long-distance flights, it pays to shop around. Here, the competition is greater. Who wants to sit for a flight of six or even 10 hours squeezed in like a sardine?

So it pays to study the airlines' seating data. Pitch between seats of 79 to 81 centimetres is the rule. The exceptions include the best-in-comparison Thai Airways, which offers 83 to 86 centimetres of pitch in economy class, Wong says.

The width of seats is also a comfort factor. The advantage of having 47 centimetres rather than 43 centimetres is something that not only a weightier person will appreciate at the end of a long flight.

So it comes as bad news that some airlines are already experimenting with rows of 10 seats - in space originally designed for nine.

"An airplane passenger cabin is one of the most expensive pieces of real estate in the world, so there's a battle for every square centimetre of space," says Rene Dankwerth, vice president of research and development at the Recaro Aircraft Seating company of Germany.

"There is some room left for improvement when it comes to comfort and ergonomics," he adds reassuringly. Newer seat sides are tapered, so that you have a wide place to rest your arm, but more wiggle room for your bottom.

Will there ever be more room again for economy passengers?

Dankwerth's answer is a cautious one.

"It depends on technological developments. If in the distant future,

Space is money: The battle for every centimetre in economy class

supersonic planes become prevalent, then space will become tighter." That's because all flights will be like short hauls.

"But just the opposite is also possible. If solar-powered planes such as the kind now being tried out come into use, then air travel will get slower," Dankwerth said. Longer flights would raise the incentive for airlines to allow more legroom.

dpa Notebook

Internet links

- [Seat Guru](http://dpaq.de/g9Myh)

* * * *

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NEWS FEATURE: Embattled Lufthansa digs in against pilot pay demands

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 3, 2014 Thursday 2:18 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 782 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany transport labour NEWS FEATURE: Embattled Lufthansa digs in against pilot pay demands
By Jean-Baptiste Piggin, dpa =

Berlin (dpa) - To understand why Lufthansa, Europe's biggest airline, is hunkering down and refusing to prolong generous pension rules for its pilots, plane-spotting at a German airport offers a clue: a rash of upstarts have brought new competition in Europe's skies.

Their names are still unfamiliar to many travellers: Vueling of Spain, Wizz of Hungary, Flybe of Britain, and the list is long.

Ryanair, the giant of cheap and cheerful in Europe's skies, is responding to passenger discontent and shifting operations from obscure out-of-town airfields to main airports like those of Barcelona and Brussels. EasyJet, another big player, keeps expanding.

On long-haul routes, where first and business class were traditionally Lufthansa's money-spinners, a couple of Gulf airlines are now setting the pace and luring away high-roller customers.

Dubai-based Emirates has sought economies of scale, ordering so many gigantic A380 airliners that in a few years' time it will be operating more than 140. That will be 10 times as many A380s as Lufthansa has bought or ordered.

Emirates currently operates 118 flights daily in or out of Europe and is seeking landing rights at more airports.

Etihad Airways of Abu Dhabi has been expanding by acquisition. It holds a key stake in Air Berlin, Germany's number-two airline, and has been investigating Alitalia's finances with a view to taking over the Italian airline.

"The world has completely changed for Lufthansa," said Commerzbank analyst Frank Skodzik this week.

NEWS FEATURE: Embattled Lufthansa digs in against pilot pay demands

The lumbering German flag carrier finally spotted the threat in 2012 and is deep in a cost-cutting drive that has been spearheaded by its outgoing chief, Christoph Franz. His successor, Carsten Spohr, set to take over next month, has vowed to keep the screws tight.

At the same time it must refresh an ageing fleet and catch up with rivals that have reshuffled their range of seat types.

Other airlines realized long ago that business-class passengers would pay more if offered flat beds, while economy class travellers were desperate for just a little more space in front of their seats.

Lufthansa will scrap first class in 30 big jets and from November offer extra legroom in a new class, premium economy. The airline forecasts premium economy will boost sales by 80 million euros (110 million dollars) in the first year.

To go after budget rivals, the group operates its own budget airline, Germanwings, which is also reeling from the strike.

Last month, Lufthansa, which had skipped its previous dividend to shareholders, promised a modest 45-euro-cents-per-share payout this year, despite a 17-per-cent drop in 2013 operational earnings to 697 million euros.

That rallied Lufthansa stock, with analysts intoning that its vow of 2.65 billion euros in earnings in 2015 was believable.

But staff put a different interpretation on the results: Lufthansa could afford to pay them more.

The pilots, who are grounding most of Lufthansa's flights for three days this week, accuse the shareholders of "greed."

The 5,400 pilots want the airline to reintroduce contracts that gave them the liberty to finish flying at the age of 55 and spending 10 years in leisure on 60 per cent of their previous gross earnings until they reach the legal retirement age of 65.

"Pilots who don't feel fit any more shouldn't be forced to fly," said Ilja Schulz, deputy leader of the pilots' VC union.

An experienced Lufthansa pilot can earn about 250,000 euros a year, 20 per cent more than German Chancellor Angela Merkel. At Ryanair, pilots' pay tops out at just 150,000 euros annually.

Average Lufthansa pay is 181,000 euros, nearly double the 135,000-dollar income of the average captain at a major US airline.

After a two-year pay freeze, the airline has offered its pilots' union a one-off bonus plus a two-step increase of 5.16 per cent over a five-year period, but rejects early retirement, insisting today's jets are fine for healthy pilots in their 60s to operate.

The German media are generally neutral in reporting strikes, but the mass-circulation daily Bild this week accused the pilots of being the greedy ones. "Still not enough," said Bild, triggering a wave of Facebook and Twitter rage at the strikers.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Internet

NEWS FEATURE: Embattled Lufthansa digs in against pilot pay demands

- [Lufthansa 2013 results](<http://dpaq.de/k68sv>)
- [VC union](<http://www.vcockpit.de/nc.html>)
- [US pilots' pay](<http://dpaq.de/exGAt>)

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Ryanair opening Rome hub, but alliance offer to Alitalia snubbed

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 26, 2013 Tuesday 4:52 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 415 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA FINANCE Italy aviation Ryanair Ryanair opening Rome hub, but alliance offer to Alitalia snubbed Rome Budget airline Ryanair said on Tuesday it would open a new hub at Rome's Fiumicino airport, but an offer to strike an alliance with Alitalia was snubbed by Italy's cash-strapped former flag carrier.

Ryanair said it would station six aircraft at Fiumicino from December 18, serving Palermo, Catania and Lamezia Terme in Italy, as well as Barcelona and Brussels. There are plans to increase the fleet to 10 or 12 in October 2014, it added.

Deputy chief executive Michael Cawley also said the Irish carrier could run connecting flights from Italian airports to Fiumicino, for passengers flying on Alitalia's international routes.

"We hope Alitalia will take up our offer to cooperate with them," Cawley told reporters in Rome.

The Italian carrier turned down the proposal, saying it had "its own strategy, its own industrial plan and its own staff" and was able to provide such feeder services on its own.

In a statement, it also complained about Ryanair's expansion to Fiumicino, noting that "in all advanced countries" hub carriers and low-cost airlines operate from different airports.

Had it taken up the partnership offer, Alitalia would have in effect given up on battling against Ryanair on domestic routes, focusing on more lucrative but also highly-competitive, international connections.

Alitalia made a pre-tax loss of 162 million euros (220 million dollars) in the first nine months of the year, compared to a loss of 119 million euros in the same period of 2012.

Ryanair opening Rome hub, but alliance offer to Alitalia snubbed

Its shareholders have until Wednesday to contribute to a 300 million euro (400 million dollar) capital increase that is key to avoiding bankruptcy. The company also hopes to receive 200 million euros in bank loans.

Air France-KLM, which has a 25 per cent stake and is Alitalia's leading industrial partner, has refused to chip in. Italy's publicly-owned postal service, in a move criticized as covert state aid, is due to contribute, with 75 billion euros.

Ryanair, which issued a profit warning this month but still expects to make 500-520 million euros by the end of the financial year in March, already operates from Rome's smaller airport, Ciampino.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Internet

- [Ryanair statement] (<http://dpaq.de/Io8qS>)

* * * *

The following information is not for publication

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Ryanair shares down 11 per cent after profit warning

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 4, 2013 Monday 10:50 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 278 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland aviation Ryanair Ryanair shares down 11 per cent after profit warning London
Shares in Ryanair were down 11 per cent in Dublin
on Monday, after the budget airline issued its second profit warning
in as many months, blaming downward pressure on fares.

The airline said it expected profits at the end of the financial
year in March to be between 500 million (675 million dollars) and 520
million euros, down from the 570 million to 600 million euros it
previously guided.

It will be the first drop in profit in five years.

It said the warning was "due entirely" to a "lower fare
environment", citing price competition, softer economic conditions in
Europe and a weak euro to sterling exchange rate.

It had launched "aggressive seat sales" to increase traffic but
expected fares to drop by 9 per cent in the third quarter and 10 per
cent in the fourth quarter, it said.

Releasing its half-year results, Europe's largest budget airline
by traffic said passenger numbers rose by 2 per cent to 49 million in
the six months to the end of September and said it had a record net
profit of 602 million euros.

In recent weeks the airline, headed by the notoriously blunt
Michael O'Leary, has attempted to improve its image with a series of
customer service measures.

In Monday's results statement it said it would also begin
allocating seating from February, in response to customer feedback.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Ryanair shares down 11 per cent after profit warning

Internet

- [Ryanair results](http://dpaq.de/8cNDd)

* * * *

The following information is not for publication

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Nov 0413 1050 GMT

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Ryanair in bid to improve customer service

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 25, 2013 Friday 1:17 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 283 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland aviation Ryanair Ryanair in bid to improve customer service London
Budget Irish airline Ryanair, whose chief executive
Michael O'Leary has in the past labelled some of his passengers
"idiots," on Friday announced a series of measures to improve
customer service.

In the past, O'Leary has insisted passengers only care about cheap
fares and punctuality. But in a recent U-turn, the outspoken Irishman
said his airline should try not to "unnecessarily piss people off."

On Friday the airline said over the next six months it would
increase the hand baggage allowance to allow for small ladies
handbags, and cut baggage and check-in fees. Passengers are also to
be given a 24-hour grace period in which to change minor errors in
their bookings.

O'Leary said the airline was "actively listening and responding to
our customers" as it implemented plans to increase its capacity from
80 million passengers per year to 110 million over the next five
years.

"We hope that our passengers will enjoy these service
improvements, while still enjoying Ryanair's low fares and on-time
flights," he added.

Last month a survey by the consumer magazine Which? rated Ryanair
the worst for customer service out of 100 big British brands.

The airline was also forced to apologize and refund a passenger
who had lost his entire family in a housefire after it refused to
change his flight and charged him 188 euros for a new ticket.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Ryanair in bid to improve customer service

Internet

- [Ryanair statement](<http://dpaq.de/qUDYk>)

* * * *

The following information is not for publication

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Oct 2513 1317 GMT

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Strike causes flight cancellations, delays in France

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 10, 2013 Thursday 10:27 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 243 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France transport aviation Strike causes flight cancellations, delays in France Paris
A strike by French air traffic controllers Thursday
over the EU's plans to centralize control of European airspace forced
airlines to cancel dozens of short-haul flights.

The French civil aviation authority DGAC said that the work
stoppage would mainly impact flights within France and to Spain,
Portugal and North Africa but flights through French airspace were
also expected to be affected.

Airlines had been asked to cancel 10 per cent of the day's
flights, DGAC said in a statement. Low-cost carrier Ryanair said it
had cancelled 87 flights.

The strike is the second since June by unions protesting the
European Union's Single European Sky initiative. The largest union
USAC-CGT did not join in the action, which was called by two smaller
unions, limiting the impact.

The EU says centralizing the continent's airspace will reduce
congestion and inefficiencies that cost airlines and passengers an
estimated 5 billion euros (6.6 billion dollars) a year.

But some workers fear the reforms will lead to more difficult
working conditions and job cuts.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Internet

- [Union statement on strike](<http://dpaq.de/BNU9L>)
- [DGAC statement](<http://dpaq.de/4oIxi>)

* * * *

The following information is not for publication

Strike causes flight cancellations, delays in France

dpa Contacts

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Oct 1013 1027 GMT

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Ryanair ordered to pay 8 million euros for French labour law breach

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 2, 2013 Wednesday 2:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 298 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France justice aviation Ryanair ordered to pay 8 million euros for French labour law breach
Paris

A French court on Wednesday ordered Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair to pay 8 million euros (10.1 million dollars) in damages and fines for breaching labour laws by failing to declare local staff hired on foreign contracts.

The court in the southern city of Aix-en-Provence said Ryanair's failure to pay French social charges for 127 staff who were based at its Marseille hub between 2007 and 2011.

The case was brought by the French social security body, Urssaf, the jobs office Pole Emploi, the state pension fund, and unions representing cabin crew and pilots.

Ryanair had argued that, since the crew worked for an Irish-registered airline and on Irish-registered aircraft, "they are considered to be working principally in Ireland and not in France."

Given that the airline had already paid social security taxes and pension contributions in Ireland it could not be expected to pay them again in France, the company argued.

Ryanair said a 2006 law requiring foreign airlines with French bases to adhere to French labour laws was aimed solely at boosting "loss-making Air France" and said the matter could only be resolved by European courts.

"Should Ryanair be ultimately forced to pay these social taxes and pension contributions in France, then the vast majority of these contributions will be reclaimable from the Irish government," it said in a statement.

Ryanair ordered to pay 8 million euros for French labour law breach

The company closed its permanent Marseille hub in 2011.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Internet

- [Ryanair statement](<http://dpaq.de/WQcxf>)

* * * *

The following information is not for publication

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Drunken mid-flight antics forces Ryanair flight to divert to France

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 18, 2013 Wednesday 12:43 PM EST

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Length: 285 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France transport Britain Spain Drunken mid-flight antics forces Ryanair flight to divert to France Paris

A Ryanair flight from the Scottish city of Glasgow to the Spanish resort island of Ibiza had to divert to a French airport after a group of drunken passengers started a ruckus, French media reports and sources said Wednesday.

The incident took place on Tuesday around 8:00 p.m. (1800 GMT), about an hour from the flight's scheduled arrival in Ibiza, M6 television channel reported.

A group of Scottish passengers, who had been drinking, began dancing and making a racket "to the point of destabilizing the aircraft," the channel reported.

The report said the pilot had to make an emergency landing at Beauvais airport, 90 kilometres north of Paris, but the airport's management told dpa the pilot diverted the aircraft merely as a precautionary measure

"Some people on board were drunk and started behaving abnormally and playing up and the pilot decided he did not want to continue the flight with them," airport management told dpa, adding: "It was a minor incident. It happens all the time."

The passengers involved in the disturbances were questioned by airport police and later released without charge. The flight continued on to Ibiza Tuesday evening without them.

The flight's crew have filed a criminal complaint over the incident, Agence France-Presse reported. Neither Ryanair nor Beauvais police were immediately available for comment.

dpa NOTEBOOK

Internet

Drunken mid-flight antics forces Ryanair flight to divert to France

- [M6 report](<http://dpaq.de/SAJ5g>)

* * * *

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Airbus maintains order lead over Boeing at Paris Air Show

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 20, 2013 Thursday 4:37 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 397 words

Dateline: Le Bourget, France

Body

DPA FINANCE World trade aviation Airbus maintains order lead over Boeing at Paris Air Show Le Bourget, France

Europe's Airbus had the edge over the

US's Boeing in the planemakers' biennial sales showdown at the Paris Air Show this week, receiving orders and commitments for 466 aircraft, compared with Boeing's 442.

Airbus's performance put it on course to exceed its target of 800 orders for aircraft this year. At the half-year mark the French-based manufacturer had received orders for 758 planes, CEO Fabrice Bregier announced.

Boeing's year-to-date tally comes to 692.

After four days for industry professionals, the world's biggest airshow opens to the public on Friday. President Francois Hollande will be among the visitors.

The crowd will be treated to a flyover of Airbus's ultramodern A350. The wide-body, long-haul twin-jet had its maiden flight only a week ago, at Airbus's home in Toulouse.

The plane, which is scheduled for delivery in late 2014, is designed to compete with Boeing's popular 787 Dreamliner in the lucrative long-haul market. Both use lightweight composite materials to dramatically reduce fuel consumption.

With fuel prices remaining stubbornly high, airlines have been racing to replace older gas-guzzlers with newer models.

Both Airbus and Boeing received billions of dollars in orders and commitments at the show at Le Bourget airport.

Airbus received firm orders for 241 aircraft and commitments on a

Airbus maintains order lead over Boeing at Paris Air Show

further 225. The deals had a list value of 68.7 billion dollars but double-digit discounts are habitual in the industry.

One of the biggest orders came from German aircraft leasing company Doric, which took 20 double-deck A380, the world's biggest airplane.

The smaller A320 Neo - a new version of the single-aisle A320 with more fuel-efficient engines - was also in strong demand.

Boeing booked its biggest ever European order from Irish low-cost airline Ryanair, which finalized an order for 175 737-800 jets, the current version of the Boeing classic.

The orders and commitments received by Boeing had a catalogue value of over 66 billion dollars, the company said.

Boeing, which dominates Airbus in the long-haul market, also launched a new stretched version of the Dreamliner at the show.

In a sign of the potential for the 787-10, the company received 102 provisional orders, even though it is only scheduled for delivery in 2018.

Jun 2013 1637 GMT

Load-Date: June 21, 2013

End of Document



LEAD: European air travel heavily disrupted by French strike

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 12, 2013 Wednesday 1:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 462 words

Body

DPA FINANCE France transport labour EU LEAD: European air travel heavily disrupted by French strike
Eds: Updates with new cancellations, Belgian union's response =

Paris (dpa) - Up to three-quarters of flights to and from France's main airports were cancelled Wednesday, as air traffic controllers stepped up a two-day strike over EU plans to centralize control of European airspace.

The French civil aviation authority said that "nearly 100 per cent of air traffic controllers" had observed the strike on the second day of the protest, which saw other unions join in the work stoppage.

As a result, the DGAC asked airlines to cut a further 25 per cent of their flights through Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports in Paris, as well as in Beauvais, Lyon, Nice, Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux.

The airlines had already been asked to cancel half their flights - around 1,800 - on each day.

The latest cancellations affected a further 250 flights, a DGAC spokeswoman said.

Ryanair, Europe's biggest low-cost airline, said it had been forced to cancel 250 flights on Wednesday, after cutting more than 200 flights on Tuesday. Hundreds more flights around Europe had been delayed, the airline said.

The strike has affected not only flights to and from France but also flights through French airspace to other destinations.

German carrier Lufthansa cancelled over 50 flights on Wednesday, including some flights to Spain and Italy.

Air France warned its passengers that the situation was "very

LEAD: European air travel heavily disrupted by French strike

disrupted." While the airline still aimed to maintain all its long-haul flights to and from Paris, its short and medium-haul flights were "heavily impacted" and last-minute cancellations could not be excluded.

The strike was set to end at 0400 GMT on Thursday.

It was originally planned as a three-day protest, but the SNCTA trade union which led the strike announced it would shorten it by a day after France and Germany wrote to the EU to ask it to postpone its Single European Sky initiative.

The EU says centralizing the continent's airspace will reduce congestion and inefficiencies that cost airlines and passengers an estimated 5 billion euros (6.6 billion dollars) a year.

"If we leave things as they are, we will be confronted with heavy congestion and chaos in our airspace," EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas warned.

The unions say they fear the reforms will lead to more difficult working conditions and job cuts. But not all agree with the strike.

Belgium's biggest union of air traffic controllers, the BGATC, has rejected calls by the European Transport Workers Federation for a Europe-wide protest.

The BGATC said talks between airlines and aviation authorities would be more constructive than "preventive actions in which passengers are the only victims."

Jun 12 13 1330 GMT

Load-Date: June 13, 2013

End of Document



Ryanair reports record yearly profit

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 20, 2013 Monday 9:01 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 133 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business Ryanair Ryanair reports record yearly profit Dublin
Low-cost airline Ryanair on Monday reported record
yearly profits as it continued to grow, despite the economic crisis
in Europe and higher fuel costs.

The Ireland-based company said annual profit stood at 569 million
euros (731 million dollars), 13 per cent higher than last year.

A 5-per-cent rise in traffic levels to 79.3 million passengers
lifted revenues for the fiscal year ending March 31 by 13 per cent to
4.88 billion euros, the company said in a statement.

It warned that the recession across much of the EU would dampen
2014 profits, which it expects to be in the range of 570-600 million
euros.

The company has received 15 new aircraft, opened seven new bases,
and launched 217 new routes.

May 2013 0901 GMT

Load-Date: May 21, 2013



Animal-hair allergy sufferers should carry medication when pets fly

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 28, 2013 Sunday 3:05 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 256 words

Dateline: Goettingen, Germany

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT dpa special lifestyle Animal-hair allergy sufferers should carry medication when pets fly Goettingen, Germany
Some airlines are allowing passengers to take cats and dogs with them on holiday, especially on short-haul flights, despite the fears of allergy sufferers of high-altitude rashes.

Passengers with animal-hair allergies should notify desk staff at check-in about their condition as airline agents can see where animals are located on the flight and seat the allergy sufferers further away, said Florian Graenzdoerffer from Lufthansa of Germany.

If the passenger has neglected to mention an allergy at check-in, flight attendants on board can look for an alternative seat, says Kathrin Zirkel of a German airline, Air Berlin.

Despite sitting further away, an allergic reaction may still occur. Typical symptoms of an animal hair allergy are itchy eyes, a runny nose and shortness of breath.

Thomas Fuchs from the Association of German Allergologists suggests having emergency medication on hand while travelling. Individuals affected could also take an antihistamine before departure.

"That can curb less pronounced reactions," said Fuchs, who works at Goettingen University Clinic.

Lufthansa says it allows up to two cherished pets per flight on its smaller jets and up to six per flight on big jets.

"We wouldn't want our planes to turn into flying zoos," said Graenzdoerffer.

Animal-hair allergy sufferers should carry medication when pets fly

European budget airlines are less accommodative. Both Ryanair and Easyjet ban pets, apart from seeing-eye dogs.
Apr 28 13 0305 GMT

Load-Date: April 28, 2013

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2ND LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 27, 2013 Wednesday 1:47 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 389 words

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation Ireland 2ND LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus
Eds: Adds Ryanair, Aer Lingus reax in grafs 9-11 =

Brussels (dpa) - The European Union on Wednesday blocked Irish low-cost airline Ryanair from a hostile takeover of Aer Lingus, the EU executive announced, citing competition concerns.

The merger would have harmed consumers by creating a monopoly or market dominance on 46 routes currently contested by the two airlines, the European Commission found.

"This would have reduced choice and, most likely, would have led to price increases for consumers travelling on these routes," the commission wrote in a statement.

"The commission's decision protects more than 11 million Irish and European passengers who travel each year to and from (the Irish cities of) Dublin, Cork, Knock and Shannon," said EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia.

Ryanair had sought to address EU competition concerns by offering to sell parts of its short-haul business to rivals such as Britain's Flybe, as well as giving up take-off and landing slots at London airports, but failed to convince the EU's antitrust regulator.

"Those proposals were simply inadequate to solve the very serious competition problems which this acquisition would have created on no less than 46 routes," Almunia said.

The commission rejected the concessions in part because it found that Flybe would probably not have the resources to maintain a rival network over the long term.

Ryanair already holds almost 30 per cent of shares in Aer Lingus.

Aer Lingus welcomed the decision, saying: "Business and leisure

2ND LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

travellers are well served by the vigorous competition that has been preserved between these two carriers."

But Ryanair said it would take the issue to the European Court of Justice. The carrier issued a statement accusing the commission of a "'political' decision to pander to the vested interests of the Irish government," which has a 25-per-cent share in Aer Lingus.

The ruling was "not ... based on a fair and reasonable application of EU competition rules or precedent airline merger approvals," the low-cost carrier wrote.

Ryanair has twice before tried to acquire Aer Lingus. The first attempt in 2007 was blocked by the EU, also over competition concerns. Ryanair itself abandoned the second attempt in 2009.

Feb 27 13 1347 GMT

Load-Date: February 28, 2013

End of Document



LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 27, 2013 Wednesday 11:39 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 283 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation Ireland LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus Brussels
The European Union has blocked Irish low-cost
airline Ryanair from taking over Aer Lingus, the EU executive said
Wednesday, citing competition concerns.

The merger would have harmed consumers by creating a monopoly or
market dominance on 46 routes currently contested by the two
airlines, the European Commission found.

"This would have reduced choice and, most likely, would have led
to price increases for consumers travelling on these routes," the
commission found.

"The Commission's decision protects more than 11 million Irish and
European passengers who travel each year to and from (the Irish
cities of) Dublin, Cork, Knock and Shannon," said EU Competition
Commissioner Joaquin Almunia.

Ryanair had sought to address EU competition concerns by offering
to sell parts of its short-haul business to rivals such as Britain's
Flybe, as well as giving up take-off and landing slots at London
airports, but failed to convince the EU's antitrust regulator.

"Those proposals were simply inadequate to solve the very serious
competition problems which this acquisition would have created on no
less than 46 routes," Almunia said.

The bid was thought to be worth around 700 million euros (915
million dollars). Ryanair already holds almost 30 per cent of shares
in Aer Lingus.

The low-cost airline previously said it would take the issue to
the European Court of Justice, should the merger be rejected.

LEAD: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Ryanair has twice before tried to acquire Aer Lingus. The first attempt in 2007 was blocked by the EU, also over competition concerns, and Ryanair itself abandoned the second attempt in 2009.

Feb 2713 1139 GMT

Load-Date: February 28, 2013

End of Document



URGENT: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 27, 2013 Wednesday 11:32 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 48 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation Ireland URGENT: EU blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus Brussels
The European Union has blocked Irish low-cost
airline Ryanair from taking over its rival Aer Lingus due to
competition concerns, the EU executive said Wednesday.
Feb 2713 1132 GMT

Load-Date: February 28, 2013

End of Document



Airlines have duty of care after volcano eruptions, EU court rules

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 31, 2013 Thursday 2:47 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 331 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA FINANCE EU justice aviation Airlines have duty of care after volcano eruptions, EU court rules Luxembourg

Airlines' duty to care for passengers, when flights have been cancelled under extraordinary circumstances, extends to volcanic eruptions, the European Union's top court ruled Thursday.

Its verdict came in a case against low-cost carrier Ryanair, which was forced to ground flights following the eruption of Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajokull in 2010, causing the closure of European airspace for a week.

The case was brought by a passenger who was stranded in the southern Portuguese city of Faro for seven days when her flight to Dublin was cancelled. Since Ryanair provided no care, she argued that the airline owed her compensation of almost 1,130 euros (1,500 dollars).

"The air carrier must provide free of charge ... refreshments, meals and, where appropriate, hotel accommodation and transport between the airport and place of accommodation, as well as means of communication with third parties," the European Court of Justice found.

It rejected Ryanair's claim that the volcano eruption went beyond the "extraordinary circumstances" in which such care is due.

"EU law does not recognize a separate category of 'particularly extraordinary' events, beyond 'extraordinary circumstances', which would lead to the air carrier being exempted from all its obligations," the court said.

However, airlines could estimate the additional cost of looking after stranded passengers and calculate this into ticket prices, the

Airlines have duty of care after volcano eruptions, EU court rules

court found.

The Luxembourg-based judges also found that no additional compensation was due, over and above the "amounts which proved necessary, appropriate and reasonable to make up for the shortcomings of the air carrier."

A Dublin court had asked the EU legal authority whether the closure of airspace following a volcanic eruption constituted "extraordinary substances." The Irish court will pass the final verdict on the amount of repayment due.

Jan 31 13 1447 GMT

Load-Date: February 1, 2013

End of Document



Air France takes on low-cost airlines with 49-euro fares

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 7, 2013 Monday 12:52 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 159 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France business aviation Air France takes on low-cost airlines with 49-euro fares Paris Air France on Monday sought to stem the exodus of European customers to low cost rivals Easyjet and Ryanair by launching a new range of cheap fares on 58 short- and medium-haul destinations.

The Mini fares start at 49 euros (64 dollars) one-way, including tax. Checked bags costs an additional 15-30 euros.

Air France said the new fares target "the 60 per cent of customers who are looking for the best possible fares and the 40 per cent of short and medium-haul customers travelling without checked baggage."

"We're not becoming a low-cost airline, we are continuing to offer the Air France quality of service," chief executive Alexandre de Juniac said.

The European pages on Air France's website were down on Monday morning as the airline struggled to cope with demand for the new fares, which are available on flights starting February 6.

Jan 0713 1252 GMT

Load-Date: January 8, 2013



Irish government opposes Ryanair's takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 18, 2012 Tuesday 9:24 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 164 words

Dateline: Dublin/Frankfurt

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business Ryanair AerLingus Irish government opposes Ryanair's takeover of Aer Lingus Dublin/Frankfurt

Ireland's government Tuesday opposed a takeover of Aer Lingus by the country's budget airline Ryanair, saying there was no advantage for Ireland in the deal.

Transport Minister Leo Varadkar said the government would not sell its holdings in Aer Lingus to support the hostile takeover attempt by Irish rival Ryanair.

Ryanair is making its third bid to corral a majority in Aer Lingus, a move that also would require approval by the European Commission. The commission has expressed concern about the consequence of a takeover, such as reduction of competition on many flight paths.

Ryanair has held about 30 per cent of Aer Lingus for years. Its first takeover attempt was rejected by the European Union in 2007, and it withdrew from its second bid. For British anti-trust officials, even that 30-per-cent holding in Aer Lingus is a thorn in its side.

Dec 18 12 21 24 GMT

Load-Date: December 19, 2012



LEAD: Ryanair profits from passenger growth in austere times

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 5, 2012 Monday 2:43 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 564 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business Ryanair LEAD: Ryanair profits from passenger growth in austere times
Eds: Recasts, adds quotes, profit forecast =

London (dpa) - Tight traveller budgets at times of recession are behind Ryanair's 10-per-cent increase in net profit to 596 million euros (765 million dollars) in the six months to September, propelled by a record rise in passenger numbers, the airline said Monday.

Ryanair was "benefiting from austerity across Europe" as it managed to keep prices down, said chief executive Michael O'Leary at a presentation of half-yearly results in London.

"The price gap between us and the competition is getting bigger. People are coming to Ryanair for the price and they are coming back again and again for our new aircraft and the punctuality of our flights," said O'Leary.

He predicted that Ryanair would continue to benefit from a consolidation in the industry and from "the effect of the recession on loss-making carriers around Europe which are now cutting back."

The airline said that the "robust" result was because of a combination of strong bookings and lower fuel costs. Ryanair, which raised prices by an average 6 per cent, said overall fuel costs rose by 24 per cent to 218 million euros during the period.

O'Leary's upbeat assessment came after the Dublin-based airline said profits had risen by 10 per cent between April and September, compared with 544 million euros for the same period in 2011.

Passenger numbers rose by an average 6 per cent, from 44.7 million to 48 million, as revenue increased by 15 per cent to 3.1 billion euros.

The airline raised its profit forecast for the full year to 490-520 million euros, from earlier estimates of 400-440 million

LEAD: Ryanair profits from passenger growth in austere times

euros.

O'Leary said reports about alleged safety concerns at Ryanair - relating mainly to allegations that the aircraft were carrying minimum levels of fuel - had been exaggerated, and the issue had been settled.

Ryanair had been assured by the relevant authorities that it complied fully with European Union safety procedures.

Under its 10-year strategy, Ryanair planned to acquire 200 new aircraft, while hoping to increase passenger numbers from currently 80 million a year to 120 million over the next five to 10 years.

It was important for Ryanair to break into markets in Europe where competition was still lacking, said O'Leary. Prices for short-haul flights had come down dramatically in Europe because of the "choice provided by Ryanair."

"Further airline failures and consolidation are inevitable," he said.

The carrier, which operates more than 1,500 flights a day across 28 countries, recently said it would add nine new routes to three regional airports in Britain, creating 1,000 jobs. Potential for growth would come mainly from central and eastern Europe.

However, the airline expected traffic to be "broadly flat" over the current six-month period. Ryanair would ground up to 80 aircraft over the winter as a result of high oil prices, airport fares and seasonally weaker demand.

It said it expected "market conditions in Europe to remain tough as recession, austerity, high fuel costs and excessive government taxes dampen air travel demand."

O'Leary said he was determined to pursue Ryanair's bid to take over Irish airline Aer Lingus, in which it already holds 30 per cent. He was confident that the European Commission would vote in favour of the bid.

Nov 0512 1443 GMT

Load-Date: November 6, 2012

End of Document



Ryanair sees rise in profits, passengers over Olympic summer

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 5, 2012 Monday 8:12 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 177 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business Ryanair Ryanair sees rise in profits, passengers over Olympic summer London Irish budget airline Ryanair reported Monday a 10-per-cent increase in net profit to 596 million euros (765 million dollars) in the six months to September, coupled with a rise in passenger numbers coinciding with the London Olympic Games.

The April-September result compares with 544 million euros registered in the same period in 2011. Passenger figures rose by an average 6 per cent, from 44.7 million to 48 million, as revenue increased by 15 per cent to 3.1 billion euros.

The airline raised its profit forecast for the full year to between 490 and 520 million euros, from earlier estimates of between 400 and 440 million euros.

Ryanair said the "robust" results were partly due to a combination of strong bookings during the London Olympics and lower fuel costs.

But it warned that it expected "market conditions in Europe to remain tough as recession, austerity, high fuel costs and excessive government taxes dampen air travel demand."

Nov 0512 0812 GMT

Load-Date: November 6, 2012



Ryanair under investigation in Italy for evading labour taxes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 16, 2012 Tuesday 12:33 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 173 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA FINANCE Italy aviation Ryanair Ryanair under investigation in Italy for evading labour taxes Rome Italian prosecutors are pressing charges against the low cost airline Ryanair for evading "millions" in labour taxes by employing people in Italy under Irish law, the Corriere della Sera daily reported on Tuesday.

Ryanair chief executive officer Michael O'Leary and the director of legal and regulatory affairs, Juliusz Komorek, are accused of having used the expedient for 220 people at Bergamo airport, in northern Italy.

Labour taxes are around 12 per cent in Ireland, compared to 37 per cent in Italy. Labour officials have calculated that Ryanair's methods have saved the company 12 million euros (15.5 million dollars) in social security payments, Corriere della Sera said.

Labour officials spotted the alleged irregularities in late 2011. Ryanair was then given three months to pay up and avoid prosecution. The company declined to take up the offer, insisting that its practices are legal under European Union laws.

Oct 16 12 1233 GMT

Load-Date: October 17, 2012



Italian businessman wants to rename local airport after Mussolini

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 15, 2012 Monday 11:08 AM EST

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Length: 331 words

Body

DPA x Italy society history Italian businessman wants to rename local airport after Mussolini
Eds: epa file photos =

Rome (dpa) - A businessman's suggestion to rename a struggling local airport in northern Italy after Benito Mussolini in order to increase its "visibility" has sparked an outcry, Italian media reported Monday.

The idea to rebrand the airport in Forli, a town 75 kilometers east of Bologna, comes from Massimo Balzani, local representative of the Italian business association Confindustria, centre-left daily La Repubblica wrote.

Balzani first made the proposal in an interview last week with Il Resto Del Carlino, a regional newspaper which ran a picture of him posing with a bust of "Il Duce."

"I am not saying that his policies should not be analysed and examined, even negatively. But this does not mean that we should forget that this airport was created by Mussolini," he said.

"Using the name of Mussolini would ensure greater visibility," said Balzani, who denied being a fascist.

The businessman has been rebuffed by local leaders, La Repubblica said.

"It is such a foolish thing that I did not even comment on it," Forli mayor Roberto Balzani - who is not related - told the paper. The proposal "is completely ill-judged," said Aurelio Regina, a deputy national leader of Confindustria.

The Italian partisans association ANPI protested too, recalling that 42 civilians were shot on the airport's premises by Mussolini's German Nazi allies in 1944.

Under Italian law, expressing support for fascist ideology is a crime. In recent months, controversy has also erupted over a monument

Italian businessman wants to rename local airport after Mussolini

erected in a small town in Lazio, the region around Rome, dedicated to fascist general Rodolfo Graziani.

Forli airport is currently named after Luigi Ridolfi, a local aviator. The publicly-owned facility, once used by Ryanair but currently serving only two low cost airlines, Wizzair and Belleair, is laden with debts and may be closed if no private buyers are found.

Oct 1512 1108 GMT

Load-Date: October 16, 2012

End of Document



Ryanair plane en route to Bratislava diverted to Berlin

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 24, 2012 Monday 5:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 113 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain aviation Ryanair Ryanair plane en route to Bratislava diverted to Berlin London
A Ryanair flight from London to the Slovakian capital of Bratislava was diverted to Berlin on Monday after a warning light indicated a "possible technical issue," a spokesman for the Dublin-based budget airline said.

He said all passengers had disembarked safely and continued their onward journey with a replacement aircraft. Ryanair offered passengers affected by the delay their "sincere apology."

The diversion follows a series of incidents with Ryanair planes in Spain, where unplanned landings by the airline have sparked a safety row with the authorities.

Sep 24 12 1730 GMT

Load-Date: September 25, 2012



Ryanair says Irish report backs it as secure airline

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 20, 2012 Thursday 1:33 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 225 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA FINANCE Spain aviation Ryanair Ryanair says Irish report backs it as secure airline Madrid
A report by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) has concluded that three Ryanair emergency landings in Spain in July were in line with European security standards, the low-cost airline's chief executive Michael O'Leary said Thursday.

The preliminary report, which has not been made public, was quoted by O'Leary at a press conference in Madrid.

Ryanair security had been questioned in Spain following a string of unplanned landings at several Spanish airports.

They included three emergency landings in Valencia on July 26 because of lack of fuel. Ryanair says the planes were en route to Madrid, but were forced to fly to Valencia because of stormy weather, and to circulate above the city before being able to land.

The IAA concluded that the landings respected the European Union's security and operational norms, O'Leary said. The IAA also recommended that Ryanair revise its fuel policy and issue a guide to aircraft crews on the issue.

The Spanish Air Security Agency (AESA) is still investigating the Valencia landings, according to government sources. A Spanish ombudswoman has also announced an investigation into Ryanair security.

The Irish carrier has never had an accident in its nearly three decades of existence, O'Leary stressed.

Sep 2012 1333 GMT

Load-Date: September 21, 2012

Ryanair says Irish report backs it as secure airline

End of Document



Spain opens new investigation into Ryanair safety

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 18, 2012 Tuesday 2:36 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 252 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA FINANCE Spain aviation Ryanair Spain opens new investigation into Ryanair safety Madrid
A Spanish ombudswoman on Tuesday announced she was opening an investigation into incidents involving the Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair, whose recent unplanned landings sparked a safety row with the Spanish authorities.

Soledad Becerril said Ryanair had been involved in 1,201 incidents in the first half of this year - a figure disputed by the company. Ryanair says it does not have more complaints and incidents than other airlines.

Ryanair planes have made three unplanned landings in Spain since Thursday. They were attributed to technical problems or air turbulence.

The airline is already under investigation by the Infrastructure Ministry following three emergency landings in Valencia in July because of lack of fuel. Ryanair says the planes were en route to Madrid, but were forced to fly to Valencia because of stormy weather, and to circulate above the city before being able to land.

Spanish transport officials were due to meet their Irish counterparts in Dublin to discuss tighter security controls, senior official Rafael Catala said.

Infrastructure Minister Ana Pastor was also due to discuss the supervision of airlines with her German counterpart during a visit to Berlin. In addition, Madrid has requested a meeting with European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas.

Ryanair on Monday accused the Spanish Infrastructure Ministry of a smear campaign, and asked Pastor to give an explanation.

Sep 18 12 1436 GMT

Spain opens new investigation into Ryanair safety

Load-Date: September 19, 2012

End of Document



NEWS FEATURE: Unplanned Ryanair landings prompt questions in Spain

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 18, 2012 Tuesday 12:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 729 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe aviation NEWS FEATURE: Unplanned Ryanair landings prompt questions in Spain
By Christian Ebner, dpa =

Frankfurt (dpa) - A series of recent unplanned landings by Ryanair aircraft flying to Spanish destinations has tarnished the Irish budget carrier's image - built upon its ruthless cost-cutting and strident advertising - with questions about its safety record.

Spanish transport officials were due to meet their Irish counterparts in Dublin to discuss tighter security controls, senior official Rafael Catala said. Madrid has also requested a meeting with European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas.

The European Commission meanwhile offered to assist in the exchange of information in such cases, and said there were plans to create a database on incidents and occurrences in aviation safety.

The unplanned landings last week were attributed to a technical problem, an engine problem and turbulence in the air.

A couple of weeks ago, pilot associations in Spain also accused Ryanair of putting pressure on pilots to carry as little fuel as possible to cut costs.

Three unplanned landings in July were, in fact, caused by aircraft running low on fuel. However, there is no evidence that Ryanair is taking chances with the safety of its passengers.

Nevertheless, suspicion has taken root among the public, as the airline is constantly emphasizing how cheap its tickets are. The Ryanair website advertises London to Budapest at a mere 18 pounds (30 dollars).

The seats are all but given away, with the airline making use of all kinds of fees and surcharges to boost revenues, from credit card levies to baggage charges.

NEWS FEATURE: Unplanned Ryanair landings prompt questions in Spain

Chief executive Michael O'Leary revels in announcing new cost-cutting and revenue-raising schemes, although one that received widespread publicity - to charge passengers for using on-board toilets - has not been implemented.

But no airline can afford a discussion on its safety. Following the recent unplanned landings, O'Leary insisted there was strict adherence to all regulations.

"Ryanair has not managed to create a positive safety image for itself," says Hamburg-based aviation expert Heinrich Grossbongardt. Nevertheless, he sees the airline - founded in 1985 - as being just as safe as all other major European airlines.

Ryanair's business model ensures that it looks after its fleet of 294 aircraft with care, as the Boeing 737s have to be in the air for as many hours as possible every day. "That only works with aircraft maintained in the best condition," Grossbongardt says.

Ryanair makes exclusive use of the Boeing 737-800 to reduce maintenance costs. The 737, introduced in the 1960s, is the best-selling aircraft in the history of aviation. It is regarded as one of the safest, at least in its current format.

Ryanair - like its main competitor Easyjet, which uses Airbus aircraft - takes advantage of maintaining a relatively new fleet. The Ryanair fleet is, on average, just over four years old. It is thus newer and less prone to needing repairs than the older fleets maintained by the bigger carriers.

The business model includes selling the jets, which are bought in large numbers at a considerable discount to the official list price, before they age.

Ryanair and its competitors cut costs at every opportunity. They make use of minor airports charging lower fees, cut marketing costs to a minimum through internet sales, and pay their staff well below the rates paid by the major airlines.

Staff costs make up less than 10 per cent of turnover, much lower than at Lufthansa, where the figure is above 23 per cent.

According to international safety data kept by the Jet Airliner Crash Data Evaluation Center (Jacdec), the low-cost carriers have respectable records. Easyjet ranked 19 and Ryanair 28 in 2011, both of them ahead of Air France and Iberia.

The German pilots' association Vereinigung Cockpit (VC) has been a critic of the fuel policies of the low-cost carriers, but it fails to see any systemic problem following the unplanned landings.

"These incidents need to be investigated by the authorities. We cannot say anything further at the moment," VC spokesman Joerg Handwerg said.

German aviation expert Cord Schellenberg praises the Ryanair pilots for being open about problems when in the air. "A safety landing announced beforehand and monitored by the aviation authorities is in fact a safe landing," he says.

Sep 18 12 1230 GMT

NEWS FEATURE: Unplanned Ryanair landings prompt questions in Spain

Load-Date: September 19, 2012

End of Document



Spain eyes tighter aviation controls in row with Ryanair

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 17, 2012 Monday 10:58 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 274 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA FINANCE Spain aviation Ryanair Spain eyes tighter aviation controls in row with Ryanair Madrid Spain wants to discuss the imposition of tighter safety controls on foreign carriers after two Ryanair planes were last week forced to land before reaching their destinations due to technical problems, a senior official said on Monday.

Transport official Rafael Catala said Spain has requested an immediate meeting with European Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas and the Irish civil aviation authorities to discuss a safety row with the low-cost Irish carrier.

Ryanair blamed a "small technical problem" for an unplanned landing in Madrid on Sunday of a plane on its way from Paris to Tenerife.

On Saturday, a Ryanair plane en route from Bristol in Britain to Reus in north-eastern Spain made an emergency landing in Barcelona. Spanish civil aviation authorities said the plane had a problem with one of its engines.

Last week, a Ryanair plane headed for Palma de Majorca made an emergency landing there because of turbulence in the air. Two crew members and one passenger were reported slightly injured.

Ryanair on Monday denied having security problems. It said unplanned landings showed how seriously the company took safety.

Ryanair dismissed the landings as isolated incidents in a total of more than 1,500 daily flights.

In July, Ryanair planes made three emergency landings in the eastern Spanish city of Valencia because they were running short on fuel. The airline said the planes were en route to Madrid, but were forced to fly to Valencia because of stormy weather, and to circulate

Spain eyes tighter aviation controls in row with Ryanair

above the city before being able to land.
Sep 17 12 1058 GMT

Load-Date: September 18, 2012

End of Document



EU expresses concerns over fresh Ryanair-Aer Lingus merger bid

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 29, 2012 Wednesday 11:52 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 184 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation Ireland EU expresses concerns over fresh Ryanair-Aer Lingus merger bid
Brussels

Ryanair's latest attempt to take over Irish rival

Aer Lingus poses "potential competition concerns," the European Union said Wednesday, and announced that antitrust regulators are launching an investigation into the merger.

"Ryanair and Aer Lingus are the main operators out of Dublin airport. On a large number of European routes, mainly out of Ireland, the two airlines are each other's closest competitors," the EU's executive, the European Commission, said in a statement.

"Many of these routes are currently only served by the two airlines. The takeover could therefore lead to the elimination of actual and potential competition on a large number of these routes," it added.

The commission has until January to rule on whether the merger would "significantly impede" competition in Europe.

Ryanair has twice before tried to acquire Aer Lingus. The first attempt in 2007 was blocked by the EU over competition concerns, while Ryanair itself ended the second attempt in 2009.

Aug 29 12 1152 GMT

Load-Date: August 30, 2012



Spain investigates Ryanair over emergency landings for lack of fuel

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 14, 2012 Tuesday 3:29 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 176 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA FINANCE Spain aviation Ryanair Spain investigates Ryanair over emergency landings for lack of fuel
Madrid

The Spanish Infrastructure Ministry has opened an investigation into three emergency landings by Irish carrier Ryanair, ministry sources said Tuesday.

Ryanair planes made three emergency landings in the eastern Spanish city of Valencia on July 26 because they were running short on fuel.

The airline had "seriously endangered passenger security," said the consumers' association Ceaccu, which called for a fine of 4.5 million euros (5.5 million dollars) for Ryanair if the investigation confirms wrongdoing.

Ceaccu also wants Ryanair's operating licence to be suspended for three years.

Ryanair attributed the emergency landings to the fact that the planes were en route to Madrid, but were forced to fly on to Valencia because of stormy weather in the Spanish capital.

Each of the planes had to circulate above Valencia for about an hour, the airline said. They landed normally, still having enough fuel for half an hour, it said.

Aug 1412 1529 GMT

Load-Date: August 15, 2012



London on a budget - some tips to help your wallet

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 31, 2012 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 739 words

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT dpa special travel London on a budget - some tips to help your wallet
By Merle Schmalenbach, dpa =

London (dpa) - You can already notice the money saving at the airport. Those who book low-budget flights to London might see a lot of sweating passengers. The reason is that they are wearing several layers of clothes, because discount carriers such as Ryanair now charge money for every piece of luggage.

But, the tickets are cheap. For example a round-trip fare from Berlin to London can less than 100 euros (122 dollars). Hardcore cost-cutters will do without luggage and will bring their own home-made sandwiches.

Once at Stansted airport outside London, a cost-conscious traveller will avoid taking the fast, but expensive, train into the city. Instead, there is the National Express bus. It takes up to 90 minutes to get to the city centre, but costs only 8.50 pounds (13.25 dollars). It becomes even cheaper if you immediately purchase a round-trip ticket, or book both tickets ahead of time on the internet.

The bus stops at Liverpool Street - where you should buy an Oyster card for the underground, which means you won't have to spend more than 8.40 pounds per day for the central London area. This ticket permits a traveller to ride the double-decker buses on Lines 11 and 15, which pass by many of the city's attractions.

But what do you do about a ticket to Madame Tussaud's that costs almost 50 dollars? Visitors on a tight budget can easily do without the wax museum thrills. Instead, they can head to public cultural facilities. Almost all the museums are free of charge, such as the National Gallery with its collection of Old Masters paintings, the British Museum that has the famous Rosetta Stone, and the Science Museum with its Puffing Billy steam locomotive from 1813.

London on a budget - some tips to help your wallet

Fans of modern art should head to the Tate Modern, which has works by Picasso, Warhol and Matisse. It's also rewarding to visit the smaller Sir John Soane's Museum, which was the residence of the 19th century architect and collector of curiosities. Visitors can stroll through the small rooms containing a 3,000-year-old Egyptian sarcophagus, Roman urns and paintings.

An insider's tip is also the Geffrye Museum that shows how the British middle class lived in previous centuries. It is located on Kingsland Road which, at first glance, seems unspectacular, but has many Vietnamese restaurants where one can dine for cheap.

Those who want to head to the theatre after dinner might still acquire standing-room tickets for the Donmar Warehouse for about 13 dollars. And many West End shows offer discount tickets that can be bought at Leicester Square or in the Brent Cross Shopping Centre.

An overnight stay in London does not have to be expensive. During the summer semester break many colleges, including the famous London School of Economics, offer lodgings. The rooms are in great demand, so booking several months ahead of time is advisable.

For those who are not shy about close quarters, it is possible to book a bed rather than a room. Very stylish in this regard is the inn Palmers Lodge, which is located in the villa of a biscuit manufacturer. One can book a bed in a 28-bed room starting at about 20 dollars, including breakfast.

Curtains and a chest that can be locked provide a bare minimum of privacy, not enough of course to block the sound of snoring from the next bed. The best thing to do is to hang out at the hostel's bar and socialize with the international guests as long as possible. The next morning, breakfast will include fresh croissants, coffee and juice.

For lunch, a good bet are the many Indian restaurants along Brick Lane. Dinners for less than 17 dollars can be found in, for example, the Shampán. Those searching for cheap beverages should head to the second-hand shop Blitz on Hanbury Street, where you can enjoy an espresso for about 2.50 dollars while leaning back in a sofa and watching the trend-setters shop.

Reinforced from their repast, London tourists move on to search for gifts. It's best to avoid the expensive souvenir shops and instead find a flea market, such as the Brick Lane Market, open on Sundays until 2 pm.

Here you can find old cameras, sunglasses or jewelry. But traveller beware: If you have come over on a discount air carrier, then don't purchase too much, because your carry-on baggage might be stuffed or your suitcase might cost more because it exceeds the weight limit.

Jul 3112 0305 GMT

Load-Date: July 31, 2012



Ryanair profits decline on higher fuel prices

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 30, 2012 Monday 1:02 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 109 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business aviation Ryanair profits decline on higher fuel prices Dublin
Irish airline Ryanair on Monday reported a
29-per-cent decline in profits in the second quarter.

An 11-per-cent increase in turnover to 1.3 billion euros (1.6 billion dollars) was not sufficient to offset higher expenditures resulting from rising fuel costs.

"Our outlook remains cautious for the year," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said in a statement.

He expected 2012/13 profits to drop to between 400 million and 440 million euros.

Fuel prices rose 27 per cent and accounted for 47 per cent of total operating costs, O'Leary said.

Jul 30 12 1302 GMT

Load-Date: July 31, 2012

End of Document



Ryanair sees steep rise in annual profits; fares offset fuel costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 21, 2012 Monday 7:18 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 156 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain business aviation Ryanair sees steep rise in annual profits; fares offset fuel costs
London

Irish budget airline Ryanair Monday reported a
25-per-cent rise in profits to 503 million euros (643 million
dollars) in the financial year up to the end of March.

The company said revenue rose by 19 per cent to 4.3 billion euros,
as fare increases helped to offset rising fuel costs over the period.

Traffic grew by 5 per cent as fares rose by 16 per cent on
average, which helped to overcome a 30-per-cent rise in fuel costs.

However, Ryanair warned that profits in the current financial year
could be lower. It forecast annual profits of between 400 million and
440 million euros for the year to the end of March 2013.

The recession, austerity, currency concerns and lower fares at new
bases in Hungary, Poland, Britain and Spain would make it difficult
to repeat this year's results, the company stated.

May 21 12 0718 GMT

Load-Date: May 22, 2012



Airport authorities confirm Ryanair emergency landing in Germany

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 6, 2012 Friday 12:15 PM EST

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Length: 264 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA x Germany accidents aviation Airport authorities confirm Ryanair emergency landing in Germany Berlin
A Ryanair jet made an emergency landing in Germany
this week after the plane lost cabin pressure during a flight from
Italy to Britain, German airport police said on Friday.

The plane, which had 132 passengers and six crew on board, landed
at noon on Wednesday at Hahn Airport, Ryanair's hub in Germany, a
police spokesman said. It had been on a flight from Bergamo to East
Midlands Airport.

Thirteen people were treated for minor injuries such as ear drum
damage from the sudden dip in air pressure and rapid descent.

Germany's aviation safety authority, the Braunschweig-based German
Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation, examined the jet
on the ground on Thursday, said police at Hahn, a small town airport
100 kilometres to the west of Frankfurt.

British news reports quoted passengers saying there was a bang and
then a rush of cold air through the plane.

One passenger, Jacqueline Frater, said many of those on board were
afraid. She was quoted saying on BBC News that the captain could be
overheard on the public address system saying "Mayday, mayday."

The BBC and other British media quoted budget airline Ryanair
confirming the incident and saying the captain descended from 31,000
feet to 10,000 feet after pressure was lost. The airline apologized
to passengers affected by the diversion and delay.

Frater said children and babies were crying from the ear pain.

The passengers were later taken on to East Midlands Airport on
another plane.

Apr 0612 1215 GMT

Airport authorities confirm Ryanair emergency landing in Germany

Load-Date: April 7, 2012

End of Document



EU probes southern France airport over Ryanair deals, subsidies

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 4, 2012 Wednesday 11:05 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 246 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation France EU probes southern France airport over Ryanair deals, subsidies
Brussels

A southern France airport used exclusively by Ryanair has landed under the microscope of European Union regulators, amid suspicions that it received millions in inappropriate state aid and has granted the low-cost airline an undue competitive advantage.

The EU's executive said it will probe if deals between Ryanair and the Carcassonne airport on "marketing support contracts and discounts on airport charges" were preferential, in violation of EU rules.

"The (European) Commission has concerns that such arrangements could give the airline, sole commercial user of the airport, an undue economic advantage that its competitors do not enjoy," it said.

The commission's investigation will also look into "financial arrangements between public authorities and the airport."

Its successive operators have received millions of euros in public subsidies - including from the owner of the airfield, the Languedoc-Roussillon region - to finance infrastructure projects, among other things.

"At this stage, the commission has doubts whether the measures comply with ... EU guidelines on state aid in the aviation sector," it said in a statement.

It particularly intends to check if the subsidies granted to the airport's first operator, the local Chamber of Commerce, were "necessary to carry out the investment" and "proportionate to the objectives pursued."

Apr 0412 1105 GMT

EU probes southern France airport over Ryanair deals, subsidies

Load-Date: April 5, 2012

End of Document



Brussels Airlines downplays emigration threat over Ryanair rivalry

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 29, 2012 Thursday 3:48 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 294 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE Belgium aviation Brussels Airlines downplays emigration threat over Ryanair rivalry Brussels
The leading Belgian carrier Brussels Airlines on Thursday denied that it was poised to leave the country, saying that it had only raised the possibility to draw attention to unfair competition by low-cost carrier Ryanair.

"I do not want to relocate aircrews," the chairman of the airline's board of directors, Etienne Davignon, told broadcaster RTL.

The company had previously complained that Ryanair had an unfair advantage by operating in Belgium, but paying lower taxes and pension contributions in Ireland, where its headquarters are located.

Chief executive Bernard Gustin has demanded fiscal benefits from the Belgian government to offset the advantage, according to local media. He reportedly threatened that Brussels Airlines would otherwise move headquarters to the likes of Luxembourg or Ireland.

Government sources told the Belga news agency that it would be "unimaginable" to give in to such demands given the austerity measures Belgium has recently had to implement.

The airline on Thursday received at least one offer for a new home away from its namesake capital.

Brussels Airlines is welcome to relocate to Charleroi - the Belgian airport some 65 kilometres south of Brussels that is the base for Ryanair flights, the minister responsible for airport policies in the region told broadcaster Bel-RTL.

The move would save the airline 29 euros per passenger, Andre Antoine claimed.

One person who was clearly relishing the debate was Ryanair chief

Brussels Airlines downplays emigration threat over Ryanair rivalry

executive Michael O'Leary, who happened to be in the Belgian capital on Thursday.

"Well then, move!" he told reporters in a message to its competitor. "No one will miss you in Brussels."

Mar 29 12 1548 GMT

Load-Date: March 30, 2012

End of Document



EU court rejects Ryanair appeal against 2008 rescue of Alitalia

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 28, 2012 Wednesday 9:54 AM EST

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Length: 231 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA x EU justice Alitalia Ryanair EU court rejects Ryanair appeal against 2008 rescue of Alitalia
Luxembourg

The European Union's top court on Wednesday rejected an appeal by low-cost airline Ryanair against European Commission decisions on the 2008 state rescue and privatization of Italy's main carrier Alitalia.

Back then, the EU executive declared a 300-million-euro (400-million-dollar) bridge loan from the Italian state "illegal," but cleared the transformation of Alitalia into a bad company and the sale of its marketable assets to Compagnia Aerea Italiana (CAI).

"The court dismisses Ryanair's action and thus confirms the commission's decisions," the General Court of the EU said in a statement.

Ryanair had argued that the commission should have forced CAI, rather than Alitalia, to pay back the money to the Italian state, but the Luxembourg-based body disagreed.

This was because Ryanair "has not demonstrated that the fact of ordering recovery of the aid from Alitalia (and not from CAI) substantially affected its competitive position," EU judges said.

They also rejected Ryanair's claims that the Italian government sold the Alitalia business to CAI at below-market price and that the commission had failed to spot the problem.

"All measures had been taken to ensure that the sale took place at a price not lower than the market price," the EU court said.

Mar 28 12 09:54 GMT

Load-Date: March 29, 2012

EU court rejects Ryanair appeal against 2008 rescue of Alitalia

End of Document



Ryanair should pay for Icelandic volcano disruption, EU lawyer says

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 22, 2012 Thursday 10:44 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 341 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA FINANCE EU justice transport Iceland Ryanair Ryanair should pay for Icelandic volcano disruption, EU lawyer says Luxembourg

Low cost Irish carrier Ryanair must compensate passengers left stranded by a volcanic eruption in Iceland, despite the fact that such a natural event was beyond its control, a top European Union lawyer concluded on Thursday.

European air traffic was halted for about a week in April 2010, after ash spewing from a volcano erupting under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier spread around the continent, prompting fears that it might damage jet engines.

Ryanair is fighting a 1,130-euro (1,500-dollar) compensation claim for food, accommodation and transport costs incurred by an Irish passenger who had her flight from Faro in Portugal to Dublin cancelled on April 17 and was only able to return home a week later.

But a lawyer for the EU Court of Justice - whom Irish judges handling the case turned to for an opinion - said EU regulations force airlines to look after their passengers even when flight cancellations are due to "extraordinary circumstances."

There is "no room for a separate category of 'particularly extraordinary' events which would fully release the air carrier from its obligation," Advocate General Yves Bot found, according to an EU court statement.

Airlines should, however, be spared from having to pay passengers extra damages when they are not directly responsible for flight cancellations or delays, Bot confirmed.

Advocate generals give a preliminary, non-binding opinion on cases handled by the EU court. The Luxembourg-based body generally follows their advice in its final rulings.

Ryanair should pay for Icelandic volcano disruption, EU lawyer says

After the Iceland volcano crisis, Ryanair denounced the EU passenger rights rules as unfair. In April 2011, it introduced a 2-euro levy on all its flights to cover the cost of compensations that it has been forced to pay as a result of the regulation.

Bot made a direct reference to that decision, noting that carriers "are free to pass on the resulting costs (of EU regulation) to airline ticket prices."

Mar 2212 1044 GMT

Load-Date: March 23, 2012

End of Document



Ryanair to pass on EU emission tax to passengers

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 12, 2012 Thursday 2:18 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 112 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain aviation EU Ryanair to pass on EU emission tax to passengers London
Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair is to pass on a new
EU-wide tax on carbon emissions to passengers from next week, adding
0.30 euro (0.38 US dollars) to the cost of travel per passenger on a
single flight.

The green tax scheme, known as the European Emissions Trading
System (ETS), would cost Ryanair passenger between 15 million and 20
million euros this year, Ryanair said Thursday.

It described the new measure as an "EU stealth tax that will
damage traffic, tourism, European competitiveness and jobs." The new
levy will be charged on Ryanair flights from January 17.

Jan 12 12 14:18 GMT

Load-Date: January 13, 2012

End of Document



LEAD: Ryanair profits rise despite fuel costs and economic downturn

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 7, 2011 Monday 12:25 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 265 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland aviation business LEAD: Ryanair profits rise despite fuel costs and economic downturn
London

A sharp rise in pre-tax profits Monday boosted the confidence of low-cost airline Ryanair to sail through the economic downturn and raise profit expectations for the full year.

The Irish budget airline Monday reported a rise of 23 per cent in pre-tax profits to 463 million euros (637 million dollars) between July and September, 2011.

For the last six months, pre-tax profit stood at 544 million euros. Ryanair said the increase meant that the expected full-year results could be by 10 per cent higher than forecast, rising to an estimated 440 million euros.

Ryanair said the results were due to a 24-per cent rise in revenues to 2.7 billion euros as passenger number rose by 12 per cent to 44.7 million over the past six months.

The airline said it had held average fare rises to 13 per cent as fuel costs rose by 37 per cent, while its competitors responded to rising fuel bills with a hike in ticket prices.

"We have been expanding rapidly for 20 years now, there [is] more and more demand for Ryanair services across Europe," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said, underlining that the profit rise was achieved "despite the economic downturn."

Ryanair's Chief Financial Officer, Howard Millar, said: "So far we have not seen any impact from recession."

However, Ryanair expects passenger numbers to drop in November as it carries through its plan to ground up to 80 aircraft out of a fleet of 272 over the winter months in response to high fuel costs.

LEAD: Ryanair profits rise despite fuel costs and economic downturn

Nov 0711 1225 GMT

Load-Date: November 8, 2011

End of Document



Ryanair quarterly profits up 23 per cent on rising demand

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 7, 2011 Monday 8:01 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 136 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland aviation business Ryanair quarterly profits up 23 per cent on rising demand London Irish budget carrier Ryanair saw a rise of 23 per cent in quarterly profits to 463 million euros (637 million dollars), according to results published by the airline Monday.

Ryanair said the increase for the second quarter between July and September 2011 was due to higher revenues through passenger volume which offset high fuel costs.

The figures compares with 378 million euros for the same period in the previous business year. Ryanair said it expected its annual profits to be by 10 per cent higher than its previous target.

"We have been expanding rapidly for 20 years now, there [is] more and more demand for Ryanair services across Europe," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said.

Nov 0711 0801 GMT

Load-Date: November 8, 2011

End of Document



CORRECTION (dpa 001): Calendar of World Events for November

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2011 Tuesday 12:32 AM EST

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Length: 950 words

Body

DPA v dpa events World November CORRECTION (dpa 001): Calendar of World Events for November
Eds: Corrects US interest rate decision on November 2, not 1 =

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01/11/2011

Cairo

Start of retrial of Egyptian blogger Micahel Nabil, sentenced by a military court to three years in prison for insulting the army

Frankfurt

Mario Draghi's first day as ECB chief

Qatar

Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla visit Qatar

02/11/2011

Cairo

Arab League foreign ministers meet to discuss Syria

Washington

Rezwan Ferdaus appears in court charged in relation to an alleged plot to fly remote controlled planes laden with C-4 explosives into the Pentagon and US Capitol.

Washington

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks after panel decides on US interest rates

Berlin

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel commemorate 50 years of Turkish labour migration to Germany

Copenhagen

United Nations Development Programme report

Berlin

German October unemployment

Frankfurt

Hugo Boss Q3 results

Frankfurt

Audi Q3 results

CORRECTION (dpa 001): Calendar of World Events for November

Tokyo	Sony to release its quarterly earnings
Tokyo	Nissan to release second-quarter earnings
Los Angeles	Actress Lindsay Lohan to be sentenced for violating her probation.
Johannesburg	Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla visit South Africa and Tanzania (until 09.11.2011)
03/11/2011 Cannes	G20 summit (until 04.11.2011)
Frankfurt	BMW Q3 results
Frankfurt	European Central Bank meeting
04/11/2011 Moscow	IMF head Christine Lagarde visits Russia
Washington	Deadline for creditors of Lehman Brothers bankruptcy to vote on liquidation proposal
Washington	US unemployment rate for October
London	Royal Bank of Scotland Q3 results
London	International Airlines Group (owner of British Airways) Q3 results
Berlin	German factory-order data
Frankfurt	Commerzbank Q3 results
06/11/2011 Guatemala City	Runoff presidential elections in Guatemala
Managua	Presidential and parliamentary elections in Nicaragua.
Berlin	Parties in Chancellor Merkel's ruling coalition to confer on future policies
07/11/2011 Berlin	German industrial-production data
Dublin	Ryanair half-yearly results
Brussels	Eurozone finance ministers to meet
08/11/2011 Warsaw	First sitting of new Polish parliament
Stockholm	Scandinavian carrier SAS presents Q3 results
Brussels	EU finance ministers to meet
Lubmin	Nord Stream pipeline starts pumping gas through Baltic
09/11/2011	

CORRECTION (dpa 001): Calendar of World Events for November

Copenhagen	Brewer Carlsberg presents Q3 results
Copenhagen	Shipping and energy conglomerate Moller-Maersk presents Q3 results
10/11/2011 London	News International's James Murdoch to give evidence to British parliamentary committee
Honolulu	Finance ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to meet (until 13/11/2011)
11/2011 Leipzig	German CDU party conference (until 15/11/2011)
Moscow	Presidential election in South Ossetia
14/11/2011 Brussels	EU foreign ministers to meet
Tokyo	Japan's preliminary GDP for July-September quarter to be released
Luxembourg	Eurostat to release EU September industrial production figures
15/11/2011 Manila	US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to meet Philippine President Benigno Aquino III
Mannheim	ZEW Centre for European Economic Research's index of investor confidence
Luxembourg	Eurostat to release Q3 2011 GDP figures for EU, eurozone
16/11/2011 Cairo	Arab League emergency meeting on Syria
Luxembourg	Eurostat to release EU, eurozone October inflation figures
17/11/2011 Jakarta	ASEAN conference (until 19/11/2011) President Barack Obama attending
Vienna	IAEA board meeting (until 18/11/2011)
20/11/2011 Madrid	Spain general election
21/11/2011 Vienna	Arab countries and Israel meet for IAEA forum on nuclear-weapons free Middle East (until 22.11.2011)
Phnom Penh	Opening arguments in the trial of the surviving Khmer Rouge leaders to begin.
22/11/2011 Moscow	ISS crew to return to Earth.

CORRECTION (dpa 001): Calendar of World Events for November

24/11/2011	
Lisbon	National strike in Portugal
25/11/2011	
Rabat	Parliamentary elections in Morocco
28/11/2011	
Cairo	Elections for Egypt's lower house of parliament
Kinshasa	Democratic Republic of Congo elections
Durban	Climate Change Conference (until 09/12/2011)
Nuremberg	GfK German consumer confidence
29/11/2011	
Kiev	EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton in Ukraine
Brussels	Eurozone finance ministers to meet (until 30/11/2011)
30/11/2011	
Nuremberg	German unemployment November
<#>	
Nov 0111 0032 GMT	

Load-Date: November 1, 2011

End of Document



Calendar of World Events for November

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2011 Tuesday 12:01 AM EST

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Length: 936 words

Body

DPA v dpa events World November Calendar of World Events for November
<#>

01/11/2011

Cairo

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Hugo Boss Q3 results

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Brussels	Eurozone finance ministers to meet (until 30/11/2011)
30/11/2011	
Nuremberg	German unemployment November
<#>	
Nov 0111 0001 GMT	

Load-Date: November 1, 2011

End of Document



EU court rules against Air France over air passengers' rights

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 13, 2011 Thursday 9:17 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 272 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA FINANCE EU justice transport EU court rules against Air France over air passengers' rights Luxembourg
Airline compensation costs for flight
cancellations may get heftier as a result of a ruling handed down
Thursday by the Court of Justice of the European Union, in a case
involving Air France.

Under EU law, passengers are entitled to receive between 125 and
600 euros (172-825 dollars) when their flight is cancelled. But they
should also be looked after during the delay, with access to free
accommodation, meals and a telephone.

If an airline "fails to fulfil its obligations" under the
legislation, passengers are entitled to ask for extra damages on top
of the regular flight cancellation fees, EU judges said.

Their ruling - which followed the legal advice of a court top
lawyer in July - referred to a case involving seven Spaniards suing
Air France before a Spanish court.

They are demanding compensation for taxi fares and meal costs, as
well as non-material damages, after their flight from Paris to the
north-eastern Spanish city of Vigo was cancelled in September 2008.

Spanish judges will now be tasked with delivering a final
judgement on the case, taking into account the ruling of the EU
court.

Airlines argue that EU rules on air passengers' rights are too
onerous. Their complaints grew louder after massive flight
disruptions, provoked by the eruption of a volcano in Iceland last
year, caused a spike in compensation claims.

Following that incident, low-cost airline Ryanair started charging
passengers two extra euros extra per ticket, claiming this was

EU court rules against Air France over air passengers' rights

necessary to cover the costs of EU regulation.

Oct 13 11 09 17 GMT

Load-Date: October 14, 2011

End of Document



EU wrong to ignore Ryanair complaint against Alitalia, court rules

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 29, 2011 Thursday 12:33 PM EST

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Length: 174 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA x EU justice business aviation EU wrong to ignore Ryanair complaint against Alitalia, court rules
Luxembourg

The European Union's executive was wrong to ignore a complaint by low-cost airline Ryanair against aid given to former Italian state carrier Alitalia, the bloc's Court of Justice ruled on Thursday.

The European Commission declined to take action despite being alerted to government decisions which allowed struggling Alitalia to offload 100 employees and benefit from tax breaks and compensation for lost business following the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The EU executive, which is the bloc's highest antitrust watchdog, "has failed in its obligations," EU judges said in a statement.

The commission should now take up the case "within a reasonable amount of time," the Luxembourg-based court explained.

Parallel complaints from Ryanair about alleged restrictions it faced on its activities in Italy and further state aid to Alitalia to help it pay for fuel, airport charges and redundancy programmes were thrown out.

Sep 29 11 1233 GMT

Load-Date: September 30, 2011



Ryanair reports bumper quarter

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 25, 2011 Monday 11:37 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 104 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland business aviation Ryanair reports bumper quarter Dublin
Irish low-cost airline Ryanair reported a hefty increase in revenues for its fiscal first quarter ending June, reporting a 29-per-cent year-on-year increase to nearly 1.2 billion euros.

Despite rising fuel costs, earnings rose 49 per cent to 139 million euros.

While the flight ban due to volcanic activity on Iceland severely affected Ryanair last year, the new ash cloud in May 2011 scarcely made a dent on the company's earnings.

The company said it was expecting 400 million euros in earnings for the entire year ending 2012.

Jul 2511 1137 GMT

Load-Date: July 26, 2011

End of Document



EU probes aid to French, German airports used by low cost airlines

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 13, 2011 Wednesday 11:34 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 317 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU business aviation EU probes aid to French, German airports used by low cost airlines
Brussels

State aid given to German and French airports used by low-cost airlines such as Ryanair is to be subjected to "in-depth investigations," the European Union's executive said Wednesday.

While state aid is generally outlawed in the EU, it is allowed for smaller airports in order to boost the economy of less developed regions. Ryanair and other carriers have made ample use of that provision.

Marseille airport received a 7.6-million-euro (10.7-million-dollar) grant between 2005 and 2007 to build the mp2 terminal for low-cost carriers.

The European Commission which, as the EU's executive, polices state aid regulations, said it had "doubts whether the subsidy was necessary" and "whether the aid was proportionate."

In addition, it intends to check whether lower fees offered to budget airlines using the mp2 facilities, and to those starting new routes, are appropriate - as well as whether an advertisement deal granted to a Ryanair subsidiary is overpriced.

Favourable credit extended by German authorities to Frankfurt-Hahn airport is also set to be scrutinized. The commission said it took "the preliminary view that these measures merely contribute to pay the operating costs of the airport," breaching EU state aid rules.

The EU executive also said it would investigate whether a tax that Ireland charged air passengers between 2009 and 2011 unduly favoured Irish airlines because it imposed a lower duty on short-haul flights.

EU probes aid to French , German airports used by low cost airlines

Since March 1, a flat fee of 3 euros applies for all departures from Irish airports.

At the same time, the commission cleared an air passenger tax that was in place in the Netherlands in 2008-2009. Under the scheme, passengers were charged 11.25 euros for flights within the EU and shorter than 3,500 kilometers, and 40 euros for all other destinations.

Jul 1311 1134 GMT

Load-Date: July 14, 2011

End of Document



EU top lawyer rules against Air France over air passengers' rights

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 28, 2011 Tuesday 9:58 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 264 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA FINANCE EU justice transport EU top lawyer rules against Air France over air passengers' rights
Luxembourg

Airlines' compensation costs for flight cancellations may get heftier as a result of an opinion delivered Tuesday by a top lawyer in the European Union Court of Justice, in a case involving Air France.

Under EU law, passengers are entitled to receive between 125 and 600 euros (178-857 dollars) when their flight is cancelled. But they should also be looked after during the delay, with access to free accommodation, meals and a telephone.

Advocate General Eleanor Sharpton said that if that "adequate care" is missing, passengers may sue for extra damages on top of the regular flight cancellation fees.

She was referring to a case involving Spaniards who are asking Air France to refund taxi fares and meal costs and pay non-material damages to them after their flight from Paris to Vigo was cancelled in September 2008.

The full EU court still has to rule on the case, but judges in Luxembourg usually follow the advice of their Advocate General.

Airlines have complained that EU air passengers' rights regulation places a too onerous burden on them - especially after flight disruptions caused last year by the eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland caused a spike in compensation claims.

Following that incident, the EU's executive, the European Commission, has started a review of the regulation, while low-cost airline Ryanair started charging passengers two euros extra per ticket, claiming they were needed to cover the costs of EU regulation.

EU top lawyer rules against Air France over air passengers' rights

Jun 28 11 09 58 GMT

Load-Date: June 29, 2011

End of Document



3RD LEAD: German airports to reopen as ash cloud diminishes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2011 Wednesday 11:19 AM EST

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Length: 403 words

Body

DPA x Iceland Nature aviation Germany 3RD LEAD: German airports to reopen as ash cloud diminishes
Eds: updates with airport openings, carriers =

Reykjavik/Stockholm (dpa) - The ash cloud from an erupting Icelandic volcano forced the temporary closure of airports in Germany and Sweden on Wednesday, resulting in flight cancellations.

In Germany, Bremen airport reopened after being closed for most of Wednesday morning. Hamburg was due to reopen at midday (1000 GMT) and the airspace over Berlin was expected to reopen at 2pm (1200 GMT).

Earlier, Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa anticipated around 150 flight cancellations, affecting Hamburg, Bremen and Berlin airports as well as northbound flights from Stuttgart, a spokesman said. The airline operates around 2,000 flights daily.

Other carriers that cancelled flights bound for or departing from affected German airports included British Airways, as well as budget carriers easyJet and Ryanair.

German air traffic control said the concentration of airborne ash was no longer critical.

The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers, Eurocontrol, however warned the drifting ash cloud could still affect parts of Poland.

Projections from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) in London showed areas of ash concentration over northern Germany, but the ash cloud was expected to dissipate during the day.

In Sweden some 20 flights were cancelled at Landvetter airport, the main airport in western Sweden.

The Grimsvotn volcano's activity decreased overnight but the eruption has not ceased, Vodar Sveinsson of the Icelandic Meteorological Office said. An observation plane was to provide more

3RD LEAD: German airports to reopen as ash cloud diminishes

detailed information about the plume height and ash production at Grimsvothn.

When it erupted Saturday, Iceland's most active volcano created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10 kilometres and had decreased on Tuesday to 3 to 5 kilometres.

On Tuesday the ash cloud resulted in the cancellation of some 500 flights in Europe, mainly in British airspace.

Passengers were advised to regularly check websites operated by airlines, travel operators or airports they were leaving from.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

May 25 11 119 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2011

End of Document



3RD LEAD: German airports begin reopening as ash cloud diminishes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2011 Wednesday 11:18 AM EST

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Length: 401 words

Body

DPA x Iceland Nature aviation Germany 3RD LEAD: German airports begin reopening as ash cloud diminishes
Eds: updates with airport openings =

Reykjavik/Stockholm (dpa) - The ash cloud from an erupting Icelandic volcano forced the temporary closure of airports in Germany and Sweden on Wednesday, resulting in flight cancellations.

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3RD LEAD: German airports begin reopening as ash cloud diminishes

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May 2511 1118 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2011

End of Document



ROUNDUP: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2011 Wednesday 4:40 PM EST

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Length: 469 words

Body

DPA x Iceland nature aviation Germany ROUNDUP: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes
Eds: epa photo 00000402750671, others, available =

Reykjavik/Stockholm (dpa) - Airports in northern Germany and Sweden reopened as the ash cloud drifting over European airspace from an erupting Icelandic volcano diminished Wednesday.

The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers, Eurocontrol, said about 450 flights were cancelled in German airspace due to the ash cloud.

Projections from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) in London suggested the ash cloud would dissipate overnight, and Eurocontrol said it did not expect "any significant impact on European airspace" Thursday.

The Grimsvotn volcano has "calmed down considerably," but the tremors have not completely ceased, geophysicist Gunnar Gudmundsson of the Icelandic Meteorological Office said.

After a burst early Wednesday, the plume had settled at a few hundred metres and the volcano was mainly producing vapour, he told the German Press Agency dpa.

The ash cloud that has caused disruptions in European airspace in recent days originated from the volcano's initial eruptions at the weekend, Gudmundsson said.

When it erupted Saturday, Iceland's most active volcano created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10 kilometres in height. That had decreased on Tuesday to 3 to 5 kilometres.

Berlin's two airports, which normally handle 700 takeoffs and landings daily, said 185 were cancelled because of a three-hour closure. Hamburg Airport in northern Germany said 231 flights were cancelled because of the six-hour closure.

ROUNDUP: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes

The cancellations impacted Germany's largest carrier, Lufthansa, and other carriers bound for or departing from affected German airports including British Airways, as well as budget carriers easyJet and Ryanair.

On Tuesday, the ash cloud resulted in the cancellation of some 500 flights in Europe, mainly in British airspace. British air traffic control company Nats said skies over Britain would be clear of high levels of ash by at least 7 pm (1800 GMT).

Passengers were advised to regularly check websites operated by airlines, travel operators or airports from which they were leaving.

In Sweden, some 20 flights were cancelled at Landvetter airport, the main airport in western Sweden.

In Iceland, roads south of the erupting volcano were reopened Tuesday as the ashfall subsided. Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir said "the worst is over, and now the clean-up can begin" after visiting the worst-hit area where about 1,000 people live.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

May 25 11 1640 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2011

End of Document



4TH LEAD: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2011 Wednesday 1:54 PM EST

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Length: 494 words

Body

DPA x Iceland Nature Aviation Germany 4TH LEAD: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes
Eds: Updates with airport openings, Met Office =

Reykjavik/Stockholm (dpa) - Airports in northern Germany and Sweden reopened as the ash cloud drifting over European airspace from an erupting Icelandic volcano diminished Wednesday.

After closing temporarily earlier in the day, airports in the German cities of Bremen, Hamburg and Berlin reopened by mid-afternoon as the concentration of airborne ash was no longer deemed critical.

The Grimsvotn volcano has "calmed down considerably," but the

tremors have not completely ceased, geophysicist Gunnar Gudmundsson of the Icelandic Meteorological Office said.

After a burst early Wednesday, the plume had settled at a few hundred metres and the volcano was mainly producing vapour, he told the German Press Agency dpa.

The ash cloud that has caused disruptions in European airspace in recent days originated from the volcano's initial eruptions at the weekend, Gudmundsson said.

When it erupted Saturday, Iceland's most active volcano created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10 kilometres and had decreased on Tuesday to 3 to 5 kilometres.

Berlin's Tegel airport said air movements resumed after a three-hour closure while the ash plume drifted over the German capital and on towards Poland. A Delta Airlines plane bound for New York was the first jetliner to head up the runway.

At the northern city of Hamburg, a six-hour closure ended when a TUIfly plane from Heraklion, Greece landed.

Earlier, Germany's largest carrier Lufthansa anticipated around 150 flight cancellations. It operates around 2,000 flights daily.

4TH LEAD: German airports reopen as ash cloud diminishes

Other carriers that cancelled flights bound for or departing from affected German airports included British Airways, as well as budget carriers easyJet and Ryanair.

On Tuesday the ash cloud resulted in the cancellation of some 500 flights in Europe, mainly in British airspace. British air traffic control company Nats said skies over Britain would be clear of high levels of ash by at least 7 pm (1800 GMT).

The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers, Eurocontrol, warned the drifting ash cloud could still affect parts of Poland.

Passengers were advised to check regularly websites operated by airlines, travel operators or airports they were leaving from.

In Sweden some 20 flights were cancelled at Landvetter airport, the main airport in western Sweden.

In Iceland, roads south of the erupting volcano were reopened Tuesday as the ashfall subsided. Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir said "the worst is over, and now the clean-up can begin" after visiting the worst-hit area where about 1,000 people live.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

May 25 11 1354 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2011

End of Document

1ST LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled =



1ST LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2011 Tuesday 9:11 AM EST

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Length: 369 words

Dateline: Reykjavik/Stockholm

Body

DPA x Iceland Nature 1ST LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled =
Reykjavik/Stockholm
Iceland's most-active volcano,
Grimsvotn, continued to erupt Tuesday, spewing ash into the
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The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers,
Eurocontrol, said 252 flights were cancelled due to the Icelandic
volcanic ash cloud.

British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, EasyJet and Ryanair were among
airlines that cancelled flights from all Scottish airports to
destinations within Britain and abroad.

As the ash cloud drifted towards Scandinavia, flights from
Stavanger and Haugesund in western Norway were halted at 0600 GMT
Tuesday morning, Norwegian aviation authority Avinor said.

Weather and atmospheric conditions at the Grimsvotn volcano made
it difficult to estimate the plume height, but radar images suggested
"the plume was not rising as high" as previously, Teitur Arason at
the Icelandic Meteorological Office told the German Press Agency dpa.

The readings indicated the plume was between 5 and 7 kilometres,
he said, but snow fall and cloud cover made estimates problematic.

Conditions were expected to improve later in the day allowing a
spotter plane to fly over the area. When Grimsvotn erupted Saturday
it created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between
8 to 10 kilometres.

Iceland late Monday reopened all its international airports,
including the main international airport at Keflavik.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull
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1ST LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled =

hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

Following the disruptions in 2010, European transport ministers and authorities introduced rules on flying based on ash concentration. Flying was banned in the high-risk zone, but individual countries were allowed to decide whether to allow flights in the medium-risk zone.

Ash continued to fall in Iceland, affecting farms and communities south of the volcano and in combination with strong winds created an "ash blizzard" with very poor visibility, Arason said.

May 24 11 09 11 GMT

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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1ST LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled

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Ash continued to fall in Iceland, affecting farms and communities south of the volcano and in combination with strong winds created an "ash blizzard" with very poor visibility, Arason said.

May 2411 0911 GMT

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2ND LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2011 Tuesday 11:56 AM EST

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Length: 429 words

Dateline: Reykjavik/Stockholm

Body

DPA x Iceland Nature 2ND LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled Reykjavik/Stockholm
Ash from an erupting Icelandic volcano forced the cancellation Tuesday of some 250 flight cancellations in Europe, mainly in British airspace.

The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers, Eurocontrol, said there was also "a strong possibility" that parts of Denmark and southern Scandinavia would be affected.

When Grimsvotn erupted Saturday it created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10 kilometres, and on Tuesday the Icelandic Meteorological Office said the plume was lower, at between 3 and 5 kilometres.

"There is much less activity in the volcano, less tremors, lower plume and less ash," Urdur Gunnarsdottir of the Icelandic civil protection and emergency agency told the German Press Agency dpa.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

Following the disruptions in 2010, European transport ministers and authorities introduced rules on flying based on ash concentration. Flying was banned in the high-risk zone, but individual countries were allowed to decide whether to allow flights in the medium-risk zone.

Data from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) in London that tracks the ash cloud is a key source.

In Brussels, EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas Tuesday said there were plans in place to call a meeting of EU transport ministers if needed but measures introduced after the 2010 eruption appeared sufficient "to maintain the majority of flights."

2ND LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled

Scandinavian aviation authorities were preparing for disruptions, pending on the level of ash concentration. Some flights from airports in western Norway were cancelled over the ash, aviation agency Avinor said.

Passengers were advised to regularly check websites operated by airlines, travel operators or airports they were leaving from.

British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, EasyJet and Ryanair were among airlines that earlier cancelled flights from all Scottish airports to destinations within Britain and abroad.

Iceland late Monday reopened all its international airports, including the main international airport at Keflavik.

Ash continued to fall in Iceland, affecting farms and communities south of the volcano and in combination with strong winds created an "ash blizzard" with very poor visibility, Teitur Arason of the Meteorological Office said.

May 2411 1156 GMT

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2ND LEAD: Iceland volcano eruptions continue, flights cancelled =

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Length: 430 words

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Ash from an erupting Icelandic volcano forced the cancellation Tuesday of some 250 flight cancellations in Europe, mainly in British airspace.

The Brussels-based association of European air traffic controllers, Eurocontrol, said there was also "a strong possibility" that parts of Denmark and southern Scandinavia would be affected.

When Grimsvotn erupted Saturday it created a plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10 kilometres, and on Tuesday the Icelandic Meteorological Office said the plume was lower, at between 3 and 5 kilometres.

"There is much less activity in the volcano, less tremors, lower plume and less ash," Urdur Gunnarsdottir of the Icelandic civil protection and emergency agency told the German Press Agency dpa.

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

Following the disruptions in 2010, European transport ministers and authorities introduced rules on flying based on ash concentration. Flying was banned in the high-risk zone, but individual countries were allowed to decide whether to allow flights in the medium-risk zone.

Data from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) in London that tracks the ash cloud is a key source.

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British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, EasyJet and Ryanair were among airlines that earlier cancelled flights from all Scottish airports to destinations within Britain and abroad.

Iceland late Monday reopened all its international airports, including the main international airport at Keflavik.

Ash continued to fall in Iceland, affecting farms and communities south of the volcano and in combination with strong winds created an "ash blizzard" with very poor visibility, Teitur Arason of the Meteorological Office said.

May 24 11 56 GMT

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ROUNDUP: Some European 500 flights cancelled due to volcano ash

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2011 Tuesday 4:25 PM EST

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Length: 466 words

Dateline: Reykjavik/Stockholm

Body

DPA x Iceland nature ROUNDUP: Some European 500 flights cancelled due to volcano ash Reykjavik/Stockholm
Ash from an erupting Icelandic volcano
forced the cancellation Tuesday of some 500 flights in Europe, mainly
in British airspace.

However, 29,000 flights were still expected to operate in European
airspace, the Brussels-based association of European air traffic
controllers, Eurocontrol, said.

There were also indications that activity at Grimsvotn was
reducing, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said, citing that the
plume was between 3 and 5 kilometres high.

When it erupted Saturday, Iceland's most active volcano created a
plume about 20 kilometres high. By Monday it was between 8 to 10
kilometres.

"There is much less activity in the volcano, less tremors, lower
plume and less ash," Urdur Gunnarsdottir of the Icelandic civil
protection and emergency agency told the German Press Agency dpa.

Projections from the Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) in
London, which tracks the ash cloud, said parts of Denmark, southern
Norway and Sweden were the next areas to be affected.

Scandinavian aviation authorities were preparing for disruptions,
depending on the level of ash concentration. Some flights from
airports in western Norway were cancelled, aviation agency Avinor
said.

Passengers were advised to regularly check websites operated by
airlines, travel operators or airports they were leaving from.

Authorities in Germany were also considering whether to close
airports in the north of the country.

ROUNDUP: Some European 500 flights cancelled due to volcano ash

A year ago, a volcano that erupted under the Eyjafjallajokull glacier caused major disruptions to air traffic in Europe, with hundreds of flights grounded for days due to mechanical safety concerns over the volcanic ash cloud.

Following the disruptions in 2010, European transport ministers and authorities introduced rules on flying based on ash concentration. Flying was banned in the high-risk zone, but individual countries were allowed to decide whether to allow flights in the medium-risk zone.

In Brussels, EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas said there were plans in place to call a meeting of EU transport ministers if needed, but noted that measures introduced after the 2010 eruption appeared sufficient "to maintain the majority of flights."

British Airways, KLM, Aer Lingus, EasyJet and Ryanair were among airlines that earlier cancelled flights from all Scottish airports to destinations within Britain and abroad.

Iceland late Monday reopened all its international airports, including the main international airport at Keflavik.

Ash continued to fall in Iceland, affecting farms and communities south of the volcano and in combination with strong winds created an "ash blizzard" with very poor visibility, Teitur Arason of the Meteorological Office said earlier.

May 24 11 1625 GMT

Load-Date: May 25, 2011

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Flight disruption expected in Britain over volcanic cloud =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2011 Tuesday 6:52 AM EST

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Length: 125 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Iceland nature Britain Flight disruption expected in Britain over volcanic cloud = London
Air traffic in Britain was set to be severely
disrupted Tuesday as a string of airlines cancelled domestic and
foreign flights from Scotland, in northern Britain.

British Airways, KLM, Irish carrier Aer Lingus, EasyJet and
Ryanair were among airlines which cancelled flights from all Scottish
airports to destinations within Britain and abroad.

Around 100 flights were affected as airports remained closed from
the early morning until 1200 GMT.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the temporary measure was
in response to a "dense cloud" of volcanic ash over the region
following the eruption of the Grimsvotn volcano in Iceland.

May 24 0652 GMT

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Flight disruption expected in Britain over volcanic cloud

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 24, 2011 Tuesday 6:52 AM EST

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Length: 124 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Iceland nature Britain Flight disruption expected in Britain over volcanic cloud London
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May 24 11 0652 GMT

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ROUNDUP: Ryanair warns of fares hike as profits surge =

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May 23, 2011 Monday 2:42 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 270 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain business aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair warns of fares hike as profits surge = London
Budget airline Ryanair Monday predicted a rise in
air fares to compensate for higher fuel prices as it announced a
26-per-cent rise in profits for the last financial year.

The airline said profits reached 319 million euros (449 million dollars) in the year to March 31, as passenger numbers rose by 8 per cent to 72 million. The company's fuel bill increased by 37 per cent to 1.2 billion euros, according to the results.

During the reporting period, 14,000 flights were cancelled due to adverse weather conditions and the widespread disruption of European air traffic because of the Icelandic volcanic eruption in April 2010.

The Irish carrier, which has a fleet of 272 planes, expects traffic to grow by a further 4 per cent to 75 million passengers in the year ending March 2012.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary predicted that more airlines would "go broke" due to higher oil prices in 2011. He expected no growth for Ryanair in the second half of the new financial year.

In view of an anticipated drop in passenger numbers in the winter months, the airline would ground about 80 planes during the second half of the financial year, including 50 new jets due to be delivered by Boeing.

"The aim is to lose less money in the winter months," said O'Leary. However, new "growth opportunities" would be created as more airlines would fold.

"Higher oil prices will force competitors to continue to increase fares and fuel surcharges which makes Ryanair's lower fares even more

ROUNDUP: Ryanair warns of fares hike as profits surge =

attractive," he said.

May 23 11 1442 GMT

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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ROUNDUP: Ryanair warns of fares hike as profits surge

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May 23, 2011 Monday 2:42 PM EST

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Length: 269 words

Dateline: London

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ROUNDUP: Ryanair warns of fares hike as profits surge

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May 23 11 1442 GMT

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Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT =



Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT =

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May 23, 2011 Monday 3:00 AM EST

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Body

DPA v dpa schedule 1600 Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT =

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ASIA

Bangkok - UN special envoy to Myanmar provides update
 (Myanmar-Diplomacy/UN)

Jakarta - Foreign ministers from the Non-Aligned Movement to
 meet in Bali (World-Diplomacy)

MIDEAST/NORTH AFRICA:

Benghazi/
Cairo - Developments in Libya
 (Libya-Conflicts)

Sana'a - Situation in Yemen
 (Yemen-Unrest)

Damascus/
Cairo - Situation in Syria
 (Syria-Unrest)

EUROPE:

Brussels - EU foreign, defence ministers meeting
 (EU-Diplomacy)

The Hague - Elections to Dutch upper house
 (Dutch-Elections)

Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT =

Dublin - US President Obama visits Ireland
(Ireland-Diplomacy/US)

Berlin - Luxembourg's prime minister meets German chancellor
(Germany-Diplomacy/Luxembourg)

London - Ryanair annual results
(Britain-Business/Aviation)

AMERICAS:

Washington - Israel Premier Netanyahu to address US Congress
(US-Diplomacy/Israel)

New York/
Paris - Developments in Strauss-Kahn sexual assault case
(US-Justice/France/Politics/IMF)

SPORT:

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - NBA conference finals
(Basketball-NBA)

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Berlin - ATP, WTA tennis rankings
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CYCLING

Rome - Giro d'Italia rest day

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS:

Tehran - FEATURE: Iran's "Sisyphus-war" against
foreign satellite TV. By Farshid Motahari
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Athens/
Nicosia - NEWS FEATURE: Opposition win in Cyprus could
be blow to peace talks. By Christine Pirovolakis
(350 words/Cyprus-Elections)

Cannes,
France - NEWS FEATURE: Cannes winner Malick joins
elite club of US directors. By Andrew McCathie
(675 words/France-Cinema/Cannes)

dpa-SPECIALS

Berlin - Take a deep breath: techniques for reducing blushing.
By Sabine Maurer
(770 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

- Therapy can help thaw emotional frigidity.
By Eva Neumann
(440 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

- Nail-biting kids need parents' support to stop.
By Bettina Levecke
(470 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

London - Want to live longer? Have twins
(520 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT =

Bremen, - German scientists invent factory where products
Germany think for themselves. By Irena Guettel
(595 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Science/after 0305)

Frankfurt - Tips on avoiding workplace eyestrain
(270 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

May 2311 0300 GMT

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REFILE: Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 23, 2011 Monday 3:09 AM EST

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Length: 561 words

Body

DPA v dpa schedule 1600 REFILE: Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT
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May 23, 2011 Monday 3:09 AM EST

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(690 words/Iran-Society/Television)

Athens/ - NEWS FEATURE: Opposition win in Cyprus could
Nicosia be blow to peace talks. By Christine Pirovolakis
(350 words/Cyprus-Elections)

Cannes, - NEWS FEATURE: Cannes winner Malick joins
France elite club of US directors. By Andrew McCathie
(675 words/France-Cinema/Cannes)

dpa-SPECIALS

Berlin - Take a deep breath: techniques for reducing blushing.
By Sabine Maurer
(770 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

- Therapy can help thaw emotional frigidity.
By Eva Neumann
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- Nail-biting kids need parents' support to stop.
By Bettina Levecke
(470 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

London - Want to live longer? Have twins
(520 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

REFILE: Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT

Bremen, - German scientists invent factory where products
Germany think for themselves. By Irena Guettel
(595 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Science/after 0305)

Frankfurt - Tips on avoiding workplace eyestrain
(270 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health/after 0305)

May 2311 0309 GMT

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
May 23, 2011 Monday 3:00 AM EST

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Length: 565 words

Body

DPA v dpa schedule 1600 Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT

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<#>

ASIA

Bangkok - UN special envoy to Myanmar provides update
(Myanmar-Diplomacy/UN)

Jakarta - Foreign ministers from the Non-Aligned Movement to
meet in Bali (World-Diplomacy)

MIDEAST/NORTH AFRICA:

Benghazi/
Cairo - Developments in Libya
(Libya-Conflicts)

Sana'a - Situation in Yemen
(Yemen-Unrest)

Damascus/
Cairo - Situation in Syria
(Syria-Unrest)

EUROPE:

Brussels - EU foreign, defence ministers meeting
(EU-Diplomacy)

The Hague - Elections to Dutch upper house
(Dutch-Elections)

Schedule for Monday, May 23, 0300 GMT

Dublin - US President Obama visits Ireland
(Ireland-Diplomacy/US)

Berlin - Luxembourg's prime minister meets German chancellor
(Germany-Diplomacy/Luxembourg)

London - Ryanair annual results
(Britain-Business/Aviation)

AMERICAS:

Washington - Israel Premier Netanyahu to address US Congress
(US-Diplomacy/Israel)

New York/
Paris - Developments in Strauss-Kahn sexual assault case
(US-Justice/France/Politics/IMF)

SPORT:

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - NBA conference finals
(Basketball-NBA)

TENNIS

Paris - French Open
(Tennis-FrenchOpen)

Berlin - ATP, WTA tennis rankings
(Tennis-Rankings)

CYCLING

Rome - Giro d'Italia rest day

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS:

Tehran - FEATURE: Iran's "Sisyphus-war" against
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May 2311 0300 GMT

Load-Date: May 23, 2011

End of Document



Ryanair profits surge as fare rises on the way

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 23, 2011 Monday 7:07 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 115 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Ireland business aviation Ryanair profits surge as fare rises on the way London
Irish budget carrier Ryanair Monday reported a
rise in pre-tax profits of 26 per cent in the last financial year,
but warned of further fare hikes due to increasing fuel costs.

The airline said profits reached 319 million euros (449 million
dollars) in the year to March 31. But Europe's biggest budget
carrier warned that more airlines would "go broke" due to higher oil
prices.

While this prospect brought further growth opportunities for
Ryanair, the airline said it expected to increase fares by about 12
per cent in the current financial year, following a similar rise
last year.

May 2311 0707 GMT

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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Ryanair profits surge as fare rises on the way =



Ryanair profits surge as fare rises on the way =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 23, 2011 Monday 7:07 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 116 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Ireland business aviation Ryanair profits surge as fare rises on the way = London
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May 2311 0707 GMT

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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ADVANCE Schedule for MONDAY, May 23, 1600 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
May 22, 2011 Sunday 4:00 PM EST

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Length: 488 words

Body

DPA v dpa schedule 1600 ADVANCE Schedule for MONDAY, May 23, 1600 GMT

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MIDEAST/NORTH AFRICA:

Benghazi/ - Developments in Libya
Cairo (Libya-Conflicts)

Sana'a - Situation in Yemen
(Yemen-Unrest)

Damascus/ - Situation in Syria
Cairo (Syria-unrest)

EUROPE:

Brussels - EU foreign, defence ministers meeting
(EU-Diplomacy)

The Hague - Elections to Dutch upper house
(Dutch-Elections)

Dublin - US President Obama visits Ireland
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Berlin - Luxembourg's prime minister meets German chancellor
(Germany-Diplomacy/Luxembourg)

ADVANCE Schedule for MONDAY, May 23, 1600 GMT

London - Ryanair annual results
(Britain-Business/Aviation)

AMERICAS:

Washington - Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu address US Congress
(US-Diplomacy/Israel)

New York/
Paris - Continuing developments in Dominique Strauss-Kahn
attempted rape case (US-Justice/France/Politics/IMF)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

Paris - French Open
(tennis-FrenchOpen)

Berlin - ATP and WTA tennis rankings
(tennis-Rankings)

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - NBA conference finals
(basketball-NBA)

CYCLING

Rome - Giro d'Italia rest day

BACKGROUNDERS AND BYLINERS PLANNED:

Tehran - FEATURE: Iran's "Sisyphus-war" against foreign
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May 2211 1600 GMT

ADVANCE Schedule for MONDAY, May 23, 1600 GMT =

Load-Date: May 24, 2011

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Ryanair threatens Spain with job cuts unless fines are lifted

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 9, 2011 Monday 1:42 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 352 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA FINANCE Spain Transport Aviation Ireland Ryanair threatens Spain with job cuts unless fines are lifted Madrid

Irish budget airline Ryanair has threatened to reduce operations and cut jobs in Spain unless the authorities lift fines worth 1.23 million euros, the Spanish dailies Expansion and El Mundo reported Monday.

Spanish officials confirmed that the government had received a letter from Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary to that effect.

Ryanair had been hit with 65 fines in 2009 and 2010, the reports said.

The fines were related to problems such as the airline refusing to accept identity cards and driving licences as identity documents, not granting promised discounts to passengers travelling to their homes in the Canary or Balearic Islands, and disagreements over luggage, according to sources at the Infrastructure Ministry.

O'Leary described the fines as "unfair and unjust" in a letter addressed to Spanish Industry Minister Miguel Sebastian.

Sources at the ministry confirmed that the letter, published by the economic daily Expansion, had arrived in January.

No effort was made "by the relevant agencies to verify the facts of these cases or take account of Ryanair's defence," O'Leary wrote.

He described the fines as "disproportionate" and "discriminatory," saying other airlines in Spain were not subject to such high fines.

If the fines were not lifted, Ryanair would "begin the process of cutting flights, routes, traffic and jobs at Spanish airports," the letter read.

Ryanair threatens Spain with job cuts unless fines are lifted

Ryanair expects to transport more than 30 million passengers to and from Spain this year, more than the country's leading airline Iberia, by Ryanair's own account. The carrier says it sustains more than 33,000 jobs at Spanish airports.

O'Leary requested a meeting with Sebastian, which has not taken place.

The affair has been passed from the Industry to the Infrastructure Ministry, which said the procedure of imposing fines was "following its normal course."

Spanish consumers' organizations accused Ryanair of "blackmail" and threatened to take legal action if "even a single fine" was cancelled.

May 0911 1342 GMT

Load-Date: May 10, 2011

End of Document



Ryanair reports net loss in third quarter, blames weather

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 31, 2011 Monday 8:27 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 109 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair reports net loss in third quarter, blames weather London
Budget airline Ryanair reported a net loss of 8.5
million pounds (13.5 million dollars) in the last quarter of 2010,
which it said Monday was caused mainly by disruption due to extreme
winter weather in December.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said the "small
third-quarter loss" was "disappointing," but the airline was on track
to break even for the full financial year, which ends on March 31.

The Irish airline said it faced a rise of 37 per cent in its
third-quarter fuel bill. Passenger numbers increased by 6 per cent.

Jan 3111 0827 GMT

Load-Date: February 1, 2011

End of Document



EU blocks Aegean-Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly"

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 26, 2011 Wednesday 11:59 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 250 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Greece EU blocks Aegean-Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly" Brussels
The European Union's executive has blocked a planned merger between Greek airlines Aegean and Olympic because it would create a "quasi-monopoly," officials in Brussels said Wednesday.

The EU has strict rules on maintaining and boosting competition, and the European Commission is tasked with making sure member states stick to them.

The commission "has prohibited ... the proposed merger between Aegean Airlines and Olympic Air, as it would have resulted in a quasi-monopoly on the Greek air transport market," a statement issued in Brussels read.

Between them, the two airlines control over 90 per cent of the Greek domestic air market. Commission investigators have concluded that there were "no realistic prospects" of sizeable rivals entering the market, the statement said.

"This would have led to higher fares for four out of six million Greek and European consumers travelling on routes to and from Athens each year."

To win the commission's approval, the two airlines offered to give up a number of slots at Athens and other Greek airports. However, the commission decided that that would not be enough to solve the problem, because there was not enough demand for slots from other airlines.

It is only the second time in history that the commission has blocked an airline merger. The first case was in 2007, when the executive blocked Ryanair's takeover of local rival Aer Lingus.

Jan 2611 1159 GMT

EU blocks Aegean -Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly"

Load-Date: January 27, 2011

End of Document



ROUNDUP: EU blocks Aegean-Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly"

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 26, 2011 Wednesday 2:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 332 words

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Greece ROUNDUP: EU blocks Aegean-Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly"
Eds: Adds Athens reaction =

Brussels/Athens (dpa) - The European Union's executive has blocked a planned merger between Greek airlines Aegean and Olympic because it would create a "quasi-monopoly," officials in Brussels said Wednesday.

The EU has strict rules on maintaining and boosting competition, and the European Commission is tasked with making sure member states stick to them.

The commission "has prohibited ... the proposed merger between Aegean Airlines and Olympic Air, as it would have resulted in a quasi-monopoly on the Greek air transport market," a statement issued in Brussels read.

Between them, the two airlines control over 90 per cent of the Greek domestic air market. Commission investigators have concluded that there were "no realistic prospects" of sizeable rivals entering the market, the statement said.

"This would have led to higher fares for (4 million) out of 6 million Greek and European consumers travelling on routes to and from Athens each year."

To win the commission's approval, the two airlines offered to give up a number of slots at Athens and other Greek airports. However, the commission decided that that would not be enough to solve the problem, because there was not enough demand for slots from other airlines.

In response to the decision, Theodore Vassilkakis, chairman of Aegean said: "An important opportunity for a consolidated representation in the European aviation market has been lost."

ROUNDUP: EU blocks Aegean -Olympic airline merger as "quasi-monopoly"

Meanwhile, Andreas Vgenopoulos of Marfin Investment Group and the owners of Olympic Air said the European Union's decision "will have negative consequences for consumers as well as our country's economy while it will benefit foreign competitors."

It is only the second time in history that the commission has blocked an airline merger. The first case was in 2007, when the executive blocked Ryanair's proposed takeover of local rival Aer Lingus.

Jan 26 11 1430 GMT

Load-Date: January 27, 2011

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Ryanair slashes German timetable in reaction to tax

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 14, 2010 Tuesday 4:25 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 246 words

Dateline: Dusseldorf, Germany

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Aviation Ryanair slashes German timetable in reaction to tax Dusseldorf, Germany
Irish-based Ryanair radically pruned
back its timetables serving Germany on Tuesday in response to a new
departure tax from German airports set to go into effect on January
1.

The airline, Europe's dominant budget airline, said it would move
some of its aircraft fleet away from Germany to neighbouring nations
which do not impose such a tax.

More than half the Ryanair flights serving Berlin will vanish in
the new timetable, a spokesman said in Dusseldorf.

In October, the airline cut its services to the Frankfurt area. It
said it would now trim services to the Dusseldorf area by 20 per
cent. The budget carrier, which often uses small, country airports to
save landing charges, mainly flies short-haul routes within Europe.

In a statement, Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary charged
that Germany was damaging itself by introducing the tax. He said
experience in Britain and Ireland was that such taxes significantly
reduced tourist arrivals.

The cuts to 34 routes connecting to Germany would mean 3 million
fewer passengers carried, the airline said. Ryanair's 2010-11
full-year business target is to carry 73.5 million passengers.

Germany is to charge a departure tax of 8 euros (10.50 dollars)
per person per flight from January 1 for European destinations.
Long-distance flights will be subject to taxes of 25 and 45 euros.

Author: Peter Lessmann

Dec 14 10 1625 GMT

Ryanair slashes German timetable in reaction to tax

Load-Date: December 15, 2010

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EU temporarily authorises rescue aid for Air Malta

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 15, 2010 Monday 6:04 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 293 words

Dateline: Valletta, Malta

Body

DPA FINANCE Malta Transport EU EU temporarily authorises rescue aid for Air Malta Valletta, Malta
The European Commission said on Monday it
had authorised a loan facility for Air Malta to prevent the collapse
of the national airline of the EU's smallest state.

The approval of state support to Air Malta is only temporary to
avoid a "sudden disappearance of the airline" which would lead to
serious disturbances in the Maltese economy, said Joaquín Almunia,
Commission Vice-President in charge of competition policy.

Almunia added that he had also taken into account the very limited
impact the measure will have on other member states.

The loan, worth 52 million euros (70 million dollars), is in line
with EU state aid rules, because it is limited in time and scope.

The Commission said it approved the measure temporarily, until it
can take a position on the restructuring plan to be submitted by
Malta within a maximum of six months.

Speaking in parliament on Monday, Maltese Finance Minister Tonio
Fenech described the situation as serious.

The Maltese economy relies heavily on tourism and the share of
tourists carried by Air Malta exceeds more than half the total
passengers.

Malta's government and trade unions have agreed to set up a
steering committee to oversee the restructuring of Air Malta.

Valletta has not yet divulged its reform plans though early
retirement schemes are expected. Some media reports say more than
half the workforce is expected to be shed.

EU temporarily authorises rescue aid for Air Malta

Air Malta suffered losses of 31 million dollars in 2009 and the deficit this year is expected to be higher.

Ironically, Air Malta's dip is taking place as the island-state heads towards a record year for tourism thanks to the arrival of low-cost airlines like Ryanair.

Nov 1510 1804 GMT

Load-Date: November 16, 2010

End of Document



Malta in concerted bid to keep national airline flying

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 9, 2010 Tuesday 2:55 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 327 words

Dateline: Valletta, Malta

Body

DPA FINANCE Malta Transport Malta in concerted bid to keep national airline flying Valletta, Malta
Malta's government and trade unions agreed
Tuesday to set up a steering committee to oversee the restructuring
of Air Malta, as the national airline's future hangs in the balance.

The government of the EU's smallest state has notified the
European Commission of its aim to grant Air Malta urgent rescue aid
tied to a massive restructuring programme. Valletta has not yet
outlined its reform blueprint, though early retirement schemes are
expected.

Air Malta suffered losses of 31 million dollars in 2009 and
airline sources told the German Press Agency dpa the deficit this
year is expected to be "much higher."

Ironically, Air Malta's dip is taking place as the island-state
heads towards a record year for tourism thanks to the arrival of low-
cost airlines like Ryanair.

The restructuring plan could be one of the most delicate steered
by the Maltese government.

In an island almost entirely dependent on air travel for its
tourism, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi described Air Malta as "a
lifeline" and insisted it was strategically important for Malta to
have an airline it could control.

The airline still carries 60 per cent of tourists visiting Malta
and tourism operators have warned about the danger of relying on
budget operators who may quit operations without warning.

Malta Tourism Authority chief Josef Formosa Gauci said that on
many occasions, Air Malta has been obliged to take certain decisions
that may not have been commercially viable but which have made a huge

Malta in concerted bid to keep national airline flying

difference to country's sustainability. Tourism is still the main contributor to Malta's GDP.

But others said Air Malta's woes were also self-inflicted.

Green Party chairman Michael Briguglio said on Wednesday the national airline had been used by successive governments as an electoral tool to employ people "for reasons that have nothing to do with economic viability."

Nov 0910 1455 GMT

Load-Date: November 10, 2010

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ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports double-digit profits, revenues rise

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2010 Monday 9:06 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 300 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports double-digit profits, revenues rise
Eds: more figures, clarifies adjusted results =

Dublin (dpa) - Discount air carrier Ryanair reported Monday double-digit profits and revenues growth in the first half of the fiscal year amid rising passenger numbers and ticket prices.

The company said net earnings in the April-September period came to 452 million euros (600 million dollars), up 17 per cent, while revenues rose 23 per cent to 2.2 billion euros.

After charges set aside for the ash crisis after the volcano eruption on Iceland last spring, the half-year adjusted profits came to 424 million euros, Ryanair said.

Earnings and revenues were given a boost as average ticket prices increased 12 per cent in the year-on-year period, and passenger numbers gained 10 per cent to 40.1 million.

The carrier's results also benefited from a 22 per cent rise in other revenues such as from baggage fees, priority boarding and onboard drinks.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said the airline was cautious about its outlook for the rest of the year, but that overall, the figures should be higher than previously projected.

"Our outlook for the fiscal year remains cautious as we have little visibility on fourth-quarter yields," he said.

But the airline is now projecting second-half earnings of 380 to 400 million euros, as against earlier predictions of 350-375 million euros.

Ryanair said that the costs from the disruptions resulting from the volcanic ash crisis last spring was not as high as initially

ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports double-digit profits, revenues rise

feared. The airline said the bill came to 32 million euros, compared with earlier estimates of 50 million euros.

O'Leary praised Ryanair's first-half results as being a "testimony to the robustness" of the airline.

Nov 0110 0906 GMT

Load-Date: November 2, 2010

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Britain announces tighter controls on air freight

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2010 Monday 6:12 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 301 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS US Terrorism Britain Britain announces tighter controls on air freight London
Britain on Monday announced a ban on flights containing unaccompanied freight from Somalia as part of tighter restrictions designed to prevent terrorist attacks.

The ban, which comes into force at midnight, follows a similar embargo against air freight from Yemen imposed after bombs were found in air cargo that originated in that country.

The government also announced that toner cartridges weighing more than 500 grams will be banned from hand baggage on flights departing from Britain and also on cargo flights unless they originate from a regular shipper with security clearance.

Home Secretary Theresa May told parliament the two bombs identified in last week's plot originated in Yemen, but said suspending freight flights from Somalia was necessary because of a possible link between terrorists in the two countries.

Earlier, Prime Minister David Cameron told legislators Britain must take every possible step to "cut out the terrorist cancer" that exists in the Arabian Peninsula.

May said an "intensive investigation" had been taking place in Britain and overseas following the discovery on Friday of an explosive device on a UPS flight at East Midlands Airport and a similar bomb on a FedEx plane in Dubai.

The terrorists, she said, were constantly looking for ways to circumvent security procedures.

The new measures drew a mixed response from airline operators.

Michael O'Leary, board chairman of no frills carrier Ryanair, said

Britain announces tighter controls on air freight

common sense should prevail, and pointed out that passengers who fly on his planes do not carry toner cartridges.

Mike Carrivick, chief executive of BAR UK, which represents more than 80 British airlines, promised the government his organization's full support.

Nov 0110 1812 GMT

Load-Date: November 2, 2010

End of Document



CORRECTION (eca047): Ryanair reports 17 per cent 1st-half profits

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2010 Monday 8:27 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 161 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair CORRECTION (eca047): Ryanair reports 17 per cent 1st-half profits rise

Eds: corrects percentages in headline, graf 1, profit in graf 2 =

Dublin (dpa) - Discount air carrier Ryanair reported Monday that it achieved 17 per cent profits growth in the first half of the fiscal year despite rising fuel costs and the effects of the volcano eruption on Iceland last spring.

The company said net earnings in the April-September period came to 452 million euros (600 million dollars), amid revenues of 2.2 billion euros, up 23 per cent from a year earlier.

After the first-half performance, Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary predicted higher profits in the second half of the year than previously projected.

The company now sees adjusted second-half earnings of 380 to 400 million euros, compared with Ryanair's previous projection of 350-375 million euros, with Ryanair citing higher ticket prices as a factor.

Nov 0110 0827 GMT

Load-Date: November 2, 2010



Ryanair blames high airport fees for exit from Hungarian capital

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 29, 2010 Friday 2:33 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 159 words

Dateline: Budapest

Body

DPA FINANCE Hungary Aviation Ryanair blames high airport fees for exit from Hungarian capital Budapest
Ryanair flew its last plane out of the Hungarian capital on Friday and cancelled all further flights, the budget airline announced.

The Irish no frills carrier had warned earlier that it would pull out in October unless the operator of Budapest's international airport agreed to reduce the fees its charges airlines.

"It would be worthwhile for Budapest Airport to follow the example of Belgian, Spanish and Italian airports ... in lowering its prices," the airline's Hungarian sales manager, Tamas Laszlo, said.

Laszlo also noted that competing airports in Central Europe had also discounted their fees recently, the state news agency MTI reported.

Ryanair is the world's largest international airline in terms of passengers carried, over 65 million last year according to figures from the International Air Transport Association (AITA).

Oct 2910 1433 GMT

Load-Date: October 30, 2010



German parliament approves spending cuts

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 28, 2010 Thursday 6:20 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 272 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Politics Economy German parliament approves spending cuts
Berlin (dpa) - The German parliament on Thursday passed a bill encompassing 20 billion euros of spending cuts by the year 2014, as part of a broader savings programme endorsed by Chancellor Angela Merkel despite the country's recent economic upturn.

The measures, which come into effect on January 1, 2011, affect welfare benefits for the long-term unemployed and reduce child benefits, as well as introducing a new departure tax for air passengers.

In total, Merkel's centre-right coalition of the Christian Union (CDU/CSU) and Free Democrats (FDP) plans to save 80 billion euros of public spending in the next four years.

Thursday's bill affects those measures requiring separate legislative approval outside of the regular budget process.

The proposals have been criticized by opposition parties and welfare groups for disproportionately affecting the socially vulnerable, whilst having little impact on industry or top earners.

Budget airline Ryanair has also announced plans to reduce flights to Frankfurt as a result of the measures, arguing that the new departure tax affects profit margins. German airlines have also expressed concern.

In recent months the German economy has rebounded from the global economic crisis, with the 2010 economic growth forecast doubling to 3.4 per cent.

Nevertheless, Merkel insisted in a speech to parliament on Wednesday that the spending cuts remained crucial for a healthy economy.

"With a growth rate of more than 3 per cent this year, now is the

German parliament approves spending cuts

time to begin to consolidation," the chancellor said.

Oct 28 10 1820 GMT

Load-Date: October 29, 2010

End of Document



Belgian air traffic slowly returning to normal as strike ends early

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 29, 2010 Wednesday 11:09 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 228 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE Belgium Labour Aviation Strikes Belgian air traffic slowly returning to normal as strike ends early Brussels

Belgian air traffic was slowly returning to normal on Wednesday, as a wildcat strike by air traffic controllers ended earlier than planned, officials said.

The national air traffic control company, Belgocontrol, had said Tuesday the unannounced industrial action would force it to shut off air space until Wednesday 1200 GMT.

But on Wednesday the company said on its website that after a meeting late Tuesday between trade union representatives and the management, the strike was "suspended," allowing air space to be reopened as of Tuesday 2000 GMT.

That, however, still left airlines dealing with a backlog of cancelled flights. A spokesman for Brussels Airport - the biggest in the country - said 44 per cent of scheduled departures had been cancelled on that day.

Paul De Backer told the Belga news agency that on Wednesday the percentage of flights cancelled due to the industrial action at Belgocontrol was set to fall to 20 per cent. A further 2 per cent, he added, was set to be grounded because of a general strike in Spain.

Disruptions were also expected in Charleroi airport, where Irish carrier Ryanair and other low cost airlines operate from.

Officials said air traffic was set to resume fully only later on Wednesday.

Sep 29 10 1109 GMT

Load-Date: September 30, 2010

Belgian air traffic slowly returning to normal as strike ends early

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Belgian airports closed till Wednesday due to wildcat strike

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 28, 2010 Tuesday 2:52 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 252 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Belgium Labour Aviation ROUNDUP: Belgian airports closed till Wednesday due to wildcat strike
Eds: Releads with statement from Belgocontrol =

Brussels (dpa) - Belgium's airports closed down on Tuesday as air traffic controllers declared a 24-hour wildcat strike.

A statement from the Belgian air traffic control company, Belgocontrol, said an "unofficial action" from its workers had forced it to close the Belgian civil airspace until Wednesday 1200 GMT.

The industrial protest grounded planes in Brussels and Charleroi, with companies such as Brussels Airlines, Ryanair and Wizz cancelling all of their flights.

Two other low-cost companies normally operating from Charleroi, Jetairfly and Air Arabia, diverted their operations to Lille in France, the airport's website indicated.

"Belgocontrol sincerely regrets the current action, penalising the passengers, the airline companies and the airports," the company indicated.

It said it would resume talks with its workers as soon as trade union representatives came forward with a "formal list of demands, transmitted in accordance with trade union status regulations."

The secretary of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (ACV/CSC), Bernadette Guillemeyn, told the Belga news agency that air traffic controllers were striking out of a general sense of malaise within Belgocontrol.

Belgium's deputy transport minister, Etienne Schouppe, condemned the workers' protest, saying she could "not understand this wild action."

Sep 28 10 1452 GMT

ROUNDUP: Belgian airports closed till Wednesday due to wildcat strike

Load-Date: September 29, 2010

End of Document



Wildcat strike brings Belgian air traffic to a near halt

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 28, 2010 Tuesday 1:28 PM EST

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Length: 192 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA x Belgium Labour Aviation Wildcat strike brings Belgian air traffic to a near halt Brussels
Belgium's air traffic was brought to almost a complete halt Tuesday, as air traffic controllers declared a wildcat strike, leaving no clues as to when their protest would end.

Brussels Airport - the country's largest - indicated on its website that "due to industrial action with air traffic control provider Belgocontrol no air traffic (was) possible" as of 1200 GMT on Tuesday.

"It is not clear at the moment how long (this) situation will last," it added.

Charleroi's Brussels South Airport - starting point for most low cost flights - said Belgocontrol's action would "provoke delays and/or flight cancellations."

Two companies using the airport - Ryanair and Wizz - cancelled all flights for the day, while Jetairfly and Air Arabia diverted them to Lille airport in France, the Brussels South website indicated.

The Belga news agency also reported that in Belgium's smaller airports all departures had been cancelled in Liege and Ostende, while planes were still taking off from Antwerp, albeit with delays linked to the industrial action.

Sep 28 10 1328 GMT

Load-Date: September 29, 2010



Ryanair: Germany routes may be closed because of new departure tax

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 2, 2010 Thursday 4:12 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 282 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Business Aviation Ryanair: Germany routes may be closed because of new departure tax
Berlin

Ryanair, Europe's largest budget airline, may close some of its routes in Germany because of a new departure tax being introduced by the Berlin government, company officials said Thursday.

"We will have to review all of our routes, and it is likely that these taxes will lead to a decline in passenger numbers," Ryanair spokesman Stephen McNamara told the German Press Agency dpa.

On Wednesday, the German government had signed off on 20 billion euros (25.6 billion dollars) in budget cuts and tax increases aimed at slashing its deficit. A major component is a new airport departure tax of up to 45 euros on each passenger from January 1, which is expected to raise 1 billion euros a year.

Ryanair spokeswoman Henrike Schmidt told dpa-AFX that the review could then "lead to route closures."

Ryanair operates 174 routes to European and North African destinations from its three German hubs in Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Bremen. The airline carries some 11 million passengers a year from Germany.

Ryanair has appealed to the German parliament, which must approve the cabinet's budget measures, to "prevent this mad flight tax."

"These are self-defeating taxes, they lead to a reduction in tourism numbers and a loss of jobs," McNamara said.

The government has presented the levy as a form of "green" taxation, aimed at reducing heavy carbon-emitting travel patterns while raising revenue.

Ryanair : Germany routes may be closed because of new departure tax

Ryanair said it intends to lobby the German parliament through the European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA).

ELFAA has claimed that the new tax will lead to 10,000 job losses.
Sep 0210 1612 GMT

Load-Date: September 3, 2010

End of Document



Travel tips

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 24, 2010 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 448 words

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT dpa SPECIAL Travel Travel tips
Shanghai landmark returns

Shanghai (dpa) - One of China's most iconic hotels, the Fairmont Peace Hotel in Shanghai, has reopened after comprehensive renovation.

Work on revitalizing the hotel, which occupies a prime location on the Bund overlooking the Huangpu River, took three years to complete. The owners say architects have managed to retain the art deco character and flourishes of the legendary hostelry built in 1929. At the same, modern features such as a spa have been added. A new penthouse suite on the tenth floor occupies rooms where the hotel's creator, Sir Victor Sassoon, once lived. Room prices start at around 385 dollars with an additional 15 per cent service charge.

Ryanair reduces baggage fee

Dublin (dpa) - Irish low-cost airline Ryanair is reducing a check-in baggage fee which was temporarily raised during the summer to coincide with school holidays in Britain and Ireland. From September 1 passengers will again pay 15 euros (around 19 dollars) instead of 20 euros (around 25 dollars) for each item of checked-in luggage provided it does not weigh more than 15 kilograms. For items weighing over 20 kg the charge is 25 euros. The higher summer fee of 20 euros per luggage item remains in force on routes to the Canary Islands, since these are the flights with the highest fuel consumption, said Ryanair spokeswoman Henrike Schmidt.

Electric runabouts for rent in the Swiss Alps

Frankfurt (dpa) - Holidaymakers in the Gotthard Pass region of central Switzerland can rent an electric car for day trips to the mountain tops and other local attractions. A total of 60 rental Think City electric cars are located at 31 tourist resorts and places of interest in the Goms and Haslital areas. The two-seaters cost 60 Swiss francs (57 dollars) per day to hire. The vehicles have a range of around 120 kilometres. Ensuring the ecological correctness of the

Travel tips

project is a network of more than 20 charging stations powered by renewable hydro-electricity generated from local rivers. The electromobiles are available until September 28. (www.alpmobil.ch)

Rare insight into port of Amsterdam

Amsterdam (dpa) - Tulips are not on the itinerary of an unusual tour in the Netherlands which skips the tourist hotspots in favour of the city's bustling port. The harbour facilities of Amsterdam and Zaandam are usually off limits to visitors but from September 1 to 30 a special three-hour guided boat trip gives guests a fascinating insight into Europe's largest port complex. The boat departs from the NDSM pier several times daily from Wednesdays to Sundays. A ticket costs between 20 and 25 euros. Internet: www.iamsterdam.com
Aug 2410 0305 GMT

Load-Date: August 24, 2010

End of Document



Thai national carrier announces low-cost "Thai Tiger"

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 2, 2010 Monday 6:17 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 263 words

Dateline: Bangkok

Body

DPA FINANCE Thailand Business Aviation Singapore Thai national carrier announces low-cost "Thai Tiger"
Bangkok

Thai Airways International (THAI) on Monday announced the launch of a new low-cost airline, Thai Tiger, targeting mainly the South-East Asian market.

THAI and Singapore's Tiger Airways signed an agreement to jointly invest in and manage the carrier to be based in Bangkok. Operations would begin in the first quarter of 2011, executives said.

Thai Tiger would offer short-haul services within a five-hour radius of Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The venture is part of THAI's strategy to capture more of the regional budget travel market, company president Piyasvasti Amranand said.

"When low-cost airlines started out in this region, they had only 2 per cent of the aviation market, but now they claim 17 per cent," Piyasvasti said. "We don't want to keep losing market share."

THAI controlled 42 per cent of the regional market seven years ago, but now only has 33 per cent, Piyasvasti claimed.

Malaysia-based low-cost carrier AirAsia has been a regional success story over the past decade, drawing business away from established national carriers such as THAI, Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines.

Singapore Airlines in 2003 set up Tiger Airways Holdings as a joint venture with Ryanair, Ireland's successful low-cost carrier.

"From its base at Suvarnabhumi Airport, Thai Tiger will be well positioned to also serve destinations in North Asia and the Indian sub-continent," Tiger Airways Group president Tony Davis said.

Aug 0210 0617 GMT

Thai national carrier announces low-cost " Thai Tiger "

Load-Date: August 3, 2010

End of Document



Ryanair profits down 24 per cent due to volcanic ash cloud

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 20, 2010 Tuesday 7:48 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 141 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair profits down 24 per cent due to volcanic ash cloud
Dublin/London

Ryanair, Europe's largest no-frills airline,
on Tuesday reported a 24 per cent drop in first-quarter profit, as a
result of major disruptions caused by a volcanic ash cloud in April
and May.

Net profit for the period April to June fell to 93.7 million euros
(122 million dollars) from the previous year, the Irish airline
announced in Dublin.

Ryanair was forced to cancel nearly 10,000 flights in the 18 days
after Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano erupted, spewing clouds of
ash and prompting a airspace closures.

The situation cost the airline 50 million euros.

Ryanair however, maintained its forecast for full-year net profit
to increase by between 10 to 15 per cent to between 350 million and
375 million euros.

Jul 2010 0748 GMT

Load-Date: July 21, 2010



Ryanair profits down 24 per cent due to volcanic ash cloud =

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Jul 2010 0748 GMT

Load-Date: July 24, 2010



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July 20, 2010 Tuesday 7:48 AM EST

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Jul 2010 0748 GMT

Load-Date: July 24, 2010



EasyJet wins libel damages from rival Ryanair over Pinocchio advert

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 15, 2010 Thursday 10:23 AM EST

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Length: 172 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Britain Justice Aviation EasyJet wins libel damages from rival Ryanair over Pinocchio advert London
The founder of British budget airline easyJet,
Stelios Haji-Ioannou, has been awarded undisclosed libel damages
from Irish rival Ryanair in a long-running dispute over advertising.

Full-page Ryanair advertisements in British newspapers had accused
the flamboyant Greek-Cypriot founder of easyJet of misleading
travellers on the question of delays and punctuality. Haji-Ioannou
also has British citizenship.

The adverts, which also appeared on Ryanair's website, portrayed
Haji-Ioannou with an elongated nose in the style of Pinocchio and
referred to him as "easyJet's - Mr Late Again."

His solicitors had told the High Court in London that Ryanair
chief executive Michael O'Leary had made a complete offer to settle
the claim and fully accepted that Haji-Ioannou had not lied about the
matter, the Press Association reported Thursday.

Ryanair had apologized unreservedly and agreed to pay damages and
legal costs.

Jul 15 10 1023 GMT

Load-Date: July 16, 2010



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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 15, 2010 Thursday 10:23 AM EST

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Jul 1510 1023 GMT

Load-Date: July 16, 2010



EU was right to block Ryanair's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 6, 2010 Tuesday 8:47 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 298 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Justice Transport Ryanair EU was right to block Ryanair's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules Luxembourg

The European Union's executive was right to block Ryanair's takeover of Irish rival Aer Lingus because the deal would have created a near-monopoly, the EU's court ruled Tuesday.

Ryanair launched its takeover bid in 2006, shortly after the Irish government privatised Aer Lingus. But the European Commission vetoed the move, arguing that it would give the merged company unfair control of the Irish air-travel market. Ryanair challenged the veto.

"None of the arguments put forward by Ryanair is capable of calling into question the findings made by the commission ... according to which the implementation of the merger would significantly impede effective competition," a statement from the EU's General Court read.

The proposed joint company's dominance of routes from Ireland's main airports would be "monopolistic or very significant and ... sufficient, in themselves, to validate the commission's finding that the implementation of the merger must be declared incompatible with the common market," the statement read.

However, the court turned down a claim from Aer Lingus asking the commission to force Ryanair to sell off its roughly 30-per-cent stake in the former national carrier.

The commission rejected that claim in 2007, arguing that the Ryanair holding was not a controlling interest and was therefore not subject to EU merger rules.

That decision was right because "in the absence of effective control by Ryanair over Aer Lingus, Ryanair's shareholding cannot be likened to a merger which has already arisen, which would give the

EU was right to block Ryanair 's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules

commission the right to act," the court ruled.

Either company could challenge the decision in the EU's highest court.

Jul 0610 0847 GMT

Load-Date: July 7, 2010

End of Document

EU was right to block Ryanair 's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules =



EU was right to block Ryanair's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 6, 2010 Tuesday 8:47 AM EST

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EU was right to block Ryanair 's Aer Lingus takeover, court rules =

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Jul 0610 0847 GMT

Load-Date: July 7, 2010

End of Document

Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT =



Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 6, 2010 Tuesday 3:00 AM EST

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Length: 355 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 0300 Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852-31472 Fax: 31479
(1900-0400 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66-2-714 2073/4/5/6 Fax: 2071
(Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

ASIA:

Tokyo - Japanese shares hit seven-month intraday low
(Japan-Markets)

Kabul - Security developments in Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts)

MIDDLE EAST:

Baghdad - Political, security developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Strasbourg - European Parliament to vote on EU diplomatic service
(EU-Politics)

Luxembourg - European court ruling: Monsanto DNA patent case
(EU-Justice/Business)

- European court ruling: Ryanair and Aer Lingus
takeover issues
(EU-Justice/Business/Aviation)

AMERICAS:

Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT =

Washington - US President Obama meets Israeli premier Netanyahu
(US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

- Developments in Gulf of Mexico oil spill
(US-Disasters/Ecology)

New York - Queen Elizabeth II addresses United Nations
(UN-Royalty/Britain)

SPORT:

FOOTBALL WORLD CUP
(See separate World Cup schedule)

CYCLING
Arenberg, - Tour de France third stage Wanze - Arenberg Porte du
France Hainaut 213km
(Cycling-Tour)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS:

Berlin - PREVIEW: ECB to hold rates amid fears about slowing
global economy. By Andrew McCathie
(670 words/Europe-Economy/Rates)

Havana - Number of Cuban political prisoners drops, human
rights group says
(320 words/Cuba-Politics/Justice)

Washington/ - Toronto power failure leaves British royal entourage
Toronto in dark
(240 words/Canada-Royalty/Britain/previous cycle)

Jul 0610 0300 GMT

Load-Date: July 6, 2010

End of Document



EU to rule on airline mergers within weeks

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 6, 2010 Tuesday 12:17 PM EST

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Length: 218 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA x EU Transport Airlines EU to rule on airline mergers within weeks Brussels
The European Union's executive is to rule on the
legality of a number of airline mergers within weeks, officials in
Brussels confirmed Tuesday.

The European Commission is responsible for enforcing the EU's
strict laws on keeping fair competition. In that role, it has the
right to veto any takeovers which it thinks would harm competition.

The commission is set to rule on the planned merger between Iberia
and British Airways by July 15, the proposed tie-up between US
carriers United and Continental by July 27 and the tentative fusion
of Greek carriers Olympic and Aegean Airlines by July 30, commission
spokeswoman Amelia Torres said.

The Brussels-based body also hopes to finish analysing a proposed
partnership deal between BA, Iberia and American by the end of July,
but has no legal obligation to do so, Torres said.

EU officials had earlier warned that the proposed partnership,
which involved in-depth cooperation on trans-Atlantic routes, could
breach competition rules.

Earlier on Tuesday, the EU's court ruled that the commission had
been right to veto a takeover of former Irish national carrier Aer
Lingus by no-frills rival Ryanair, saying that it would have created
a near-monopoly on some routes.

Jul 0610 1217 GMT

Load-Date: July 7, 2010



EU to rule on airline mergers within weeks =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

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Jul 0610 1217 GMT

Load-Date: July 7, 2010



Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
July 6, 2010 Tuesday 3:00 AM EST

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Length: 692 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 0300 Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT

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(Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

<#>

ASIA:

Tokyo - Japanese shares hit seven-month intraday low
(Japan-Markets)

Kabul - Security developments in Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts)

MIDDLE EAST:

Baghdad - Political, security developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Strasbourg - European Parliament to vote on EU diplomatic service
(EU-Politics)

Luxembourg - European court ruling: Monsanto DNA patent case
(EU-Justice/Business)

- European court ruling: Ryanair and Aer Lingus
takeover issues
(EU-Justice/Business/Aviation)

AMERICAS:

Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT

Washington - US President Obama meets Israeli premier Netanyahu
(US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

- Developments in Gulf of Mexico oil spill
(US-Disasters/Ecology)

New York - Queen Elizabeth II addresses United Nations
(UN-Royalty/Britain)

SPORT:

FOOTBALL WORLD CUP
(See separate World Cup schedule)

CYCLING

Arenberg, - Tour de France third stage Wanze - Arenberg Porte du
France Hainaut 213km
(Cycling-Tour)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS:

Berlin - PREVIEW: ECB to hold rates amid fears about slowing
global economy. By Andrew McCathie
(670 words/Europe-Economy/Rates)

Havana - Number of Cuban political prisoners drops, human
rights group says
(320 words/Cuba-Politics/Justice)

Washington/ - Toronto power failure leaves British royal entourage
Toronto in dark
(240 words/Canada-Royalty/Britain/previous cycle)

dpa PACKAGE: The Massacre of Srebrenica, 15 Years On:
(Moving at 0500)

Srebrenica - FEATURE: Srebrenica is Bosnia's Valley of Tears.
By Thomas Brey
(650 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica)

Belgrade - FEATURE: Why is Mladic free in Serbia? By Boris Babic
(650 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica/Serbia)

The Hague - FEATURE: What genocide? Karadzic regrets nothing.
By Thomas Burmeister
(600 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica)

Sarajevo - FACTBOX: Killing fields of Srebrenica
(300 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica)

Athens - SIDEBAR: Author on trial over Srebrenica disclosure.
By Christine Pirovolakis
(350 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica/Greece)

dpa SPECIALS:

Hohenzieritz, - Wildlife galore in Germany's most remote national

Schedule for Tuesday, July 6, 0300 GMT

Germany park. By Janette Heidenreich
(855 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Faro, - Can you really learn to play golf in seven days?
Portugal By Bernhard Krieger
(780 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Orebic/Zadar, - Croatia's mountains well worth a visit.
Croatia By Thomas Brey
(800 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Bremerhaven, - Maritime city of contrasts: Germany's Bremerhaven.
Germany By Stephanie Lettgen
(750 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Various - Travel tips
datelines (565 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Marrakech, - Marrakech: The Pearl of the South shines with a new
Morocco sheen. By Rolf Liffers
(615 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Jul 0610 0300 GMT

Load-Date: July 6, 2010

End of Document



ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, July 6, 1630 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
July 5, 2010 Monday 4:28 PM EST

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Length: 657 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1600 ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, July 6, 1630 GMT

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(Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

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AMERICAS:

Washington - US President Obama meets with Israeli
premier Netanyahu
(Mideast-Conflicts/US)

- Developments in Gulf of Mexico oil spill
(US-Disasters/Ecology)

New York - Queen Elizabeth II addresses United Nations
(UN-Royalty/Britain)

EUROPE:

Strasbourg - European Parliament to vote on EU diplomatic service
(EU-Politics)

Luxembourg - European court ruling: Monsanto DNA patent case
(EU-Justice/Business)

- European court ruling: Ryanair/Aer Lingus takeover
issues (EU-Justice/Business)

MIDDLE EAST:

ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, July 6, 1630 GMT

Baghdad - Political, security developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

ASIA:

Kabul - Security developments in Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts)

SPORT:

FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

See separate World Cup sked

CYCLING

Arenberg, - Tour de France third stage Wanze - Arenberg Porte du
France Hainaut 213km
(Cycling-Tour)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS PLANNED:

Berlin - PREVIEW: ECB to hold rates amid fears about slowing
global economy. By Andrew McCathie
(615 words/Europe-Economy/Rates, after 0205 Tuesday)

dpa PACKAGE

Srebrenica - FEATURE: Srebrenica is Bosnia's Valley of Tears
By Thomas Brey
(650 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica/after 0500)

Belgrade - FEATURE: Why is Mladic free in Serbia?
By Boris Babic
(650 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica/Serbia)

The Hague - FEATURE: What genocide? Karadzic regrets nothing
By Thomas Burmeister
(600 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica)

Sarajevo - FACTBOX: Killing fields of Srebrenica

Athens - SIDEBAR: Author on trial over Srebrenica disclosure
By Christine Pirovolakis, dpa
(350 words/Bosnia-Conflicts/Srebrenica/Greece)

dpa PACKAGE

dpa SPECIALS planned:

Hohenzieritz, - Wildlife galore in Germany's most remote national
Germany park. By Janette Heidenreich
(855 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Faro, - Can you really learn to play golf in seven days?
Portugal By Bernhard Krieger
(780 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel/after 0305)

ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, July 6, 1630 GMT

Orebic/Zadar, - Croatia's mountains well worth a visit.
Croatia By Thomas Brey
(800 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Bremerhaven, - Maritime city of contrasts: Germany's Bremerhaven.
Germany By Stephanie Lettgen
(750 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Various - Travel tips
datelines (565 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Marrakech, - Marrakech: The Pearl of the South shines with a new
Morocco sheen. By Rolf Liffers
(615 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Jul 0510 1628 GMT

Load-Date: July 6, 2010

End of Document



Ryanair returns to profit in 2009-2010 =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 1, 2010 Tuesday 6:48 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 115 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair returns to profit in 2009-2010 = London
Irish budget airline Ryanair Tuesday reported
pre-tax profits of 341 million euros (419 million dollars) in the
last financial year up to the end of March 2010.

The company said passenger numbers were up by 14 per cent compared
with the previous year, and revenue rose by 2 per cent. Ryanair said
it would pay a one-off dividend to shareholders totalling 500 million
euros - the first in its history.

The results, which follow a loss at the airline in the previous
year, do not include the cost of disruption to flights from volcanic
ash earlier this year, estimated at 50 million euros.

Jun 0110 0648 GMT

Load-Date: June 2, 2010

End of Document



Ryanair fined millions for lack of aid to stranded passengers =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 16, 2010 Sunday 8:07 AM EST

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Length: 181 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA x Italy Justice Transport Ecology Ryanair fined millions for lack of aid to stranded passengers =
Rome

Budget airline Ryanair has been hit with a 3-million-euro (3.7-million-dollar) fine for failing to render sufficient aid to passengers stranded in April when a cloud of volcanic ash blocked much of European airspace.

The ruling by Italy's ENAC flight security agency was reported Sunday in the daily La Repubblica.

The newspaper reported at least 178 cases in which Ryanair neglected its duties to passengers stranded at Ciampino airport when a cloud of volcanic ash from the Icelandic volcano Eyjafjallajokull prevented flights across huge swaths of European airspace.

In some cases entire families - some with small children and elderly members - were not offered sufficient food, water, lodging or alternative flights during the flight stoppage, according to the report.

ENAC and Italian civil air authorities had to step in to care for the stranded passengers. Airlines are legally required to care for and seek alternate flights for stranded passengers.

May 16 10 0807 GMT

Load-Date: May 17, 2010

Passengers need to be reimbursed for travel chaos, EU tells Ryanair =



Passengers need to be reimbursed for travel chaos, EU tells Ryanair =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 22, 2010 Thursday 11:48 AM EST

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Length: 363 words

Dateline: Brussels/London

Body

DPA x Europe Transport Ecology Iceland EU Passengers need to be reimbursed for travel chaos, EU tells Ryanair = Brussels/London

All passengers need to be reimbursed for the costs they incurred during the travel chaos provoked by the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland, the European Commission told budget airline industry leader Ryanair on Thursday.

The European Union's executive, responsible for policing the bloc's laws, was reacting to statements widely reported in the British media by Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary, who said his company would only pay out the cost of cancelled flights.

But Helen Kearns, spokeswoman for transport commissioner Siim Kallas, said EU rules require airlines to also refund passengers for accommodation and food expenses incurred while waiting for an alternative flight to take them home.

"There are no discount passenger rights for discount airlines," she told reporters in Brussels, stressing that there are clear rules "and Ryanair will have to apply them like everybody else."

The Irish-based company appeared to take heed of the warning, as its website on Thursday correctly informed passengers about the rights guaranteed by the EU's passenger rights legislation.

The commission statement came as the European air safety coordination body, Eurocontrol, announced that air traffic was expected to return to "normal levels" on Thursday, with 28,000 to 29,000 scheduled flights taking place.

"A small number of cancellations can be expected due to some limited restrictions and the logistical problems of airlines resuming their regular schedules," it said in a statement.

According to Eurocontrol, "almost all European airspace is available, with a few exceptions in parts of Southern Finland,

Passengers need to be reimbursed for travel chaos, EU tells Ryanair =

southern Norway, northern Scotland, and western Sweden."

Air traffic in Europe started to be grounded on April 15, amidst fears that ash from the volcano under the Eyjafjallajökull glacier could turn into a glassy substance that would damage jet engines.

Restrictions were eased starting on Tuesday, after test flights run over the weekend by several European airlines showed that it was safe to fly in most parts of the European airspace.

Apr 2210 1148 GMT

Load-Date: April 23, 2010

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Flights back to normal in Europe, costs assessed =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 22, 2010 Thursday 2:49 PM EST

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Length: 537 words

Dateline: Brussels/London/Stockholm

Body

DPA x Europe Transport Ecology Iceland ROUNDUP: Flights back to normal in Europe, costs assessed =
Brussels/London/Stockholm

Most flights operated as planned
in European airspace Thursday as flight bans were lifted after a week
of disruptions caused by an ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano.

The Icelandic Met Office said the volcano was still active, but
spewing less ash into the atmosphere than after its initial eruption
a week ago.

The European air safety coordination body Eurocontrol expected
"almost 100 per cent" of scheduled flights would take off or land on
Thursday.

Budget airline industry leader Ryanair was also told by the
European Commission that all passengers need to be reimbursed for the
costs they incurred during the travel chaos.

"There are no discount passenger rights for discount airlines,"
Helen Kearns, spokeswoman for Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas,
told reporters. She said EU rules require airlines to also refund
passengers for accommodation and food expenses incurred while waiting
for an alternative flight to take them home.

The European Union's executive was reacting to statements widely
reported in the British media by Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary, who
said his company would only pay out the cost of cancelled flights.

Flights across Europe had been suspended out of fear that ash from
the volcano under the Eyjafjallajökull glacier could turn into a
glassy substance inside jet engines, damaging them.

Since the start of the airport closures last Thursday, 3 million
passengers have had their flights cancelled, the German airport
associations said. More than half of the 190,000 flights scheduled to
take off in Europe in the last week were cancelled, Eurocontrol said.

ROUNDUP: Flights back to normal in Europe, costs assessed =

The International Air Transport Association said the air ban has cost its members 1.7 billion dollars.

Companies have also been attempting to assess the fallout for their businesses of: the failure to deliver orders; delays in receiving spare parts; cancelled meetings; and stranded staff.

Most ordinary travellers have been left out of pocket by the crisis or forced to pay for extra hotel bills, new air tickets or alternative transport as they waited for the volcanic ash threat to recede.

Airlines have slammed the closures and are questioning whether the size and density of the ash cloud over Europe really posed that big a threat.

Three risk zones were introduced early this week according to the concentration of ash. Flying remains banned in the high-risk zone, but individual countries were allowed to decide whether to allow flights in the medium-risk zone. The low-risk zone is open.

The Swedish Transport Agency said Thursday that it would also allow flights in the medium-risk zone. Airlines would have to make their risk assessment and inspect planes after flights through such zones, the agency said.

Earlier Thursday, the chief executive of the SAS Group, operator of the joint carrier Scandinavian Airlines, said it was "unfortunate" that Sweden and Finland had not introduced the medium-risk zone.

Mats Jansson said at a presentation of the group's first quarter results that the disruptions and costs of compensating passengers from April 15 to 21 cost SAS some 63 million dollars.

Apr 2210 1449 GMT

Load-Date: April 23, 2010

End of Document



Air traffic over Britain remains grounded for second day =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 16, 2010 Friday 9:49 AM EST

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Length: 313 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Europe Transport Ecology Britain Air traffic over Britain remains grounded for second day =
London

The total shutdown of air traffic over Britain has been extended for a second day until at least Saturday morning, the central air traffic control body said Friday.

National Air Traffic Services (Nats) said the clouds of volcanic ash from the eruption in Iceland continued to cover much of Britain.

So far, an estimated 600,000 passengers have been affected by the restrictions.

British Airways (BA) said Friday that more than 230 aircraft had been grounded. BA shares fell by just over 1 per cent to 240 pence on the London stock market Friday.

The airline said it was "far too soon" to calculate the costs of the losses incurred, but media reports said shutting down British airspace would cost airlines more than 100 million pounds (154 million dollars) if the disruption continued into the weekend. In the past, similar standstills - caused by strikes - have cost BA up to 20 million pounds a day. The airline is already on course to make record losses of in 2009.

The disruption also hit budget carriers Ryanair and easyJet which saw millions wiped off their companies' values on the stock market.

Economists said the impact of the measures on the overall economy was almost impossible to calculate.

"This will impact many facets of our lives, from delayed post to a lack of strawberries in supermarkets," economist Steve Bond told the Times.

Meanwhile Eurostar, the high-speed rail link through the Channel Tunnel, reported a sell-out of all its 48 services between London,

Air traffic over Britain remains grounded for second day =

Brussels and Paris Friday.

A spokeswoman said the trains were full to capacity, carrying 38,000 people Friday. She expected the service to continue to be busy over the weekend and said customers without pre-booked tickets would not be able to travel.

Apr 16 10 0949 GMT

Load-Date: April 17, 2010

End of Document



EXTRA: Volcanic ash grounds planes in Britain =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 15, 2010 Thursday 9:13 AM EST

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Length: 225 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Europe Transport Ecology Iceland EXTRA: Volcanic ash grounds planes in Britain = London
Ash from an erupting volcano in Iceland has grounded air traffic in Britain, with flights to and from major airports cancelled by noon Thursday, a spokesman for the Gatwick airport said

All flights from and to London's five airports - including Europe's largest hub, Heathrow - were to be cancelled as of noon on Thursday, a spokesman for the Gatwick airport said.

All airports in Scotland have also been shut down, including those in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Significant disruptions were also being reported at airports in Manchester, Liverpool, Luton, Newcastle and Birmingham.

The discount airline Ryanair said that it called off all of its flights from and to Britain starting at 9am (0800 GMT).

The country's air-traffic control provider, NATS, said that it has restricted flights in British airspace because the volcanic ash posed a safety risk for planes.

Airports have encouraged stranded passengers to contact their respective airlines directly.

Meteorologists believe that the ash will take a few days to disperse. It is impossible to predict how much ash will come down, they said.

The volcano near the Eyjafjallajokull glacier, about 120 kilometres east of the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik, erupted earlier this week.

Apr 1510 0913 GMT

EXTRA: Volcanic ash grounds planes in Britain =

Load-Date: April 16, 2010

End of Document



US regulators thwarting plans for pay toilets, Ryanair boss says =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 13, 2010 Tuesday 2:41 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 280 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe Business Aviation US regulators thwarting plans for pay toilets, Ryanair boss says =
Brussels

United States authorities are thwarting plans by
Ryanair to charge its customers for using the toilets onboard its
planes, the airline's boss Michael O'Leary said on Tuesday.

O'Leary, the head of Europe's largest low-cost airline, said he
wanted to remove two out of the three toilets fitted on its planes
to create space for six extra seats, and make passengers pay for the
remaining 100.

"Yes, we are thinking of it but we're not getting much help from
the regulatory authorities," he told a news conference in Brussels.

The changes would have to be approved by Boeing, the current
supplier of Ryanair's fleet, and by the Federal Aviation Authority
(FAA) of the US, where Boeing is based.

But O'Leary complained that both are resisting, citing safety
concerns.

"They say that in an emergency evacuation it would take longer if
there were six extra seats," the Ryanair boss said, adding that his
company thinks otherwise.

"We think it would take (a) shorter (time), because the bottleneck
at the back of the plane in an emergency evacuation (is) the two
toilets," O'Leary argued.

The Ryanair supremo said Boeing and the FAA are also opposed to
another, even more radical plan to maximise passenger numbers - that
of creating standing seats on planes.

"We've made no progress at all," O'Leary lamented.

US regulators thwarting plans for pay toilets, Ryanair boss says =

He said he was more sympathetic to safety concerns on this specific proposal, but still insisted that it could be workable.

"They say you can't stand on a plane. Why not, if you can stand on a train, on the London underground?" he asked reporters.

Apr 1310 1441 GMT

Load-Date: April 14, 2010

End of Document



1ST LEAD: Ryanair plane evacuated on bomb alert in Brussels

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 14, 2010 Sunday 9:56 AM EST

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Length: 157 words

Body

DPA x Belgium Terrorism Aviation 1ST LEAD: Ryanair plane evacuated on bomb alert in Brussels
Eds: changes type of plane, identifies airline, new details =

Brussels (dpa) - A Boeing plane of airline Ryanair was evacuated Sunday morning at the Charleroi airport south of Brussels due to a bomb alert.

The Belgian news agency Belga and the online edition of the newspaper La Libre Belgique said a bomb alert was received, with authorities ordering the plane's evacuation.

Belga, citing aviation authority BSCA officials, later reported that the plane was a B737-800 which was preparing for a flight to Fez, Morocco, when the bomb alert was received.

BSCA officials said the incident had not disrupted other flight operations at the airport.

Airport police officials said the alert came in at 8 am (0700 GMT). After the plane's evacuation, the plane and passengers were searched, which was completed shortly after 10 am.

Mar 14 10 0956 GMT

Load-Date: March 15, 2010



ROUNDUP: False bomb alarm prompts plane evacuation at Belgian airport

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 14, 2010 Sunday 11:09 AM EST

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Length: 153 words

Body

DPA x Belgium Terrorism Aviation ROUNDUP: False bomb alarm prompts plane evacuation at Belgian airport
Eds: releads, new details =

Brussels (dpa) - A bomb alert on a Ryanair plane at Charleroi airport south of Brussels turned out to be a false alarm after the plane was evacuated and searched, aviation officials said.

Aviation authority BSCA officials said a search of the plane and passengers found nothing and the plane was ready to take off on its flight to Fez, Morocco.

The Belgian news agency cited airport security officials as saying the alert was received at 8 am (0700 GMT), prompting the plane to be evacuated.

A search of the plane and passengers was carried out and completed shortly after 10 am.

Firefighters were also brought in to help deal with the incident, which according to airport officials did not disrupt any of the other incoming or outgoing flight operations at Charleroi.

Mar 14 10 1109 GMT

Load-Date: March 15, 2010

Air France is suing Ryanair over local subsidies =



Air France is suing Ryanair over local subsidies =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 11, 2010 Thursday 1:38 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 326 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA FINANCE France Justice EU Aviation Air France is suing Ryanair over local subsidies = Paris French airline Air France said Thursday it has filed a complaint with the European Commission against Ryanair over subsidies its Irish low-cost rival is allegedly receiving from French regional and local airports.

"Ryanair's agreement to serve these airports is conditional on the airport authorities' granting aid to it," Air France said in a statement posted on its web site.

"Such measures, taking the form of reduced airport taxes, preferential ground handling rates at certain airports or marketing aid, have been implemented by at least 25 French regional airports."

According to the daily Le Figaro, Air France has calculated that Ryanair receives some 660 million euros (900 million dollars) in such subsidies in Europe each year, 35 million euros in France alone.

Air France charged that the aid is "contrary to European regulations" and is "often financed by the airport taxes paid by other airlines at these airports."

The company said it had filed the complaint in Brussels at the end of November 2009.

Contacted by Le Figaro, Ryanair denied receiving any state aid whatsoever.

"It is Air France that is receiving illegal aid in the form of airport tax discounts on its domestic lines," a spokesman for the company was quoted as saying.

The suit is the latest skirmish in a lengthy and often bitter competition between the two carriers.

Air France is suing Ryanair over local subsidies =

In 2006, Ryanair filed two complaints against Air France - one charging that the French carrier had received almost 1 billion euros in illegal state aid and another accusing it of trying to block competition.

Ryanair has also attacked other state airlines, such as Germany's Lufthansa and Alitalia, saying they benefited from illegal subsidies from their respective governments.

Ryanair has been the target of suits filed by other European airlines on allegations similar to those made by Air France.

Mar 1110 1338 GMT

Load-Date: March 12, 2010

End of Document



EU and Georgia ink open-skies deal =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 5, 2010 Friday 1:06 PM EST

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Length: 317 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA x EU Transport Aviation Georgia EU and Georgia ink open-skies deal = Brussels
The European Union and Georgia on Friday inked an open-skies agreement which, when ratified, will lift legal restrictions on flights between their territories, in what officials expect to be a major boost for Georgia's economy.

The EU is keen to strengthen ties with Georgia and its people, and sees improved transport links as a key way of doing so.

The agreement is "very important for further strengthening the overall economic, trade and tourism relations between Georgia and the EU. Indeed, it will allow Georgia to become a full partner of the EU in aviation and gradually integrate Georgia into a pan-European aviation market," EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas said.

Once ratified by EU member states and the Georgian and European parliaments, the deal will allow any carrier from any EU member state to operate flights to Georgia from any EU country, and Georgian carriers to fly throughout the EU.

It will also lift all restrictions on the number, frequency and cost of flights, a commission statement said.

At present, direct flights exist between Georgia and nine EU states, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Poland.

EU-Georgia passenger traffic has grown by an average of 10 per cent per year over the past five years, while cargo traffic has grown 26 per cent annually, the statement said.

Similar agreements with other former-Soviet states - albeit ones closer to Western Europe, such as the Baltics - saw a rush of low-cost operators such as EasyJet and Ryanair opening flights to the region from states such as Britain, Germany and Finland.

EU and Georgia ink open-skies deal =

Georgia is one member of the EU's Eastern Partnership, launched in May 2009, which is aimed at boosting business and travel ties in return for market liberalization and pro-democracy reforms.

Mar 0510 1306 GMT

Load-Date: March 6, 2010

End of Document



PREVIEW: Lufthansa faces four-day strike from Monday =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 21, 2010 Sunday 12:28 PM EST

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Length: 450 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA x Germany Transport Labour PREVIEW: Lufthansa faces four-day strike from Monday = Frankfurt
A four-day strike beginning Monday at
Lufthansa will be the biggest stoppage in the German airline's
history - knocking out 3,200 flights according to the company's
skeleton timetable.

The only parallels in the past decade in Europe were strikes that
disrupted Alitalia in 2008 and Sabena in 2001 as those companies were
on the brink of collapse, and a 36-hour strike by French air traffic
controllers that grounded most aviation in France in 2001.

Lufthansa is trying to reschedule passengers onto jets flown by
non-union staff and is offering refunds to passengers who must cancel
trips. There has been a rush in recent days to book with other
airlines, or to rebook travel within Europe by rail instead.

Lufthansa employs 4,500 pilots.

A union, the Cockpit Association, demanded last May pay rises of
6.4 per cent, a no-layoffs promise and commitments from the airline
not to outsource operations to lower-pay subsidiaries.

Months of talks have ended in deadlock and the union took a strike
vote. Members this week authorized an all-out stoppage.

Experienced Lufthansa flight captains earn between 110,000 and
250,000 euros (150,000 and 340,000 dollars) per year.

The strike has won little sympathy from other company employees,
such as cabin crew and ground staff, who are paid far less, not to
mention check-in and telesales staff who must soothe the angry
customers.

Lufthansa is expected to be short of parking space at main German
airports for all the jets that will be idle from Monday. Pilots still
abroad early Monday were told to work one more homebound leg, then

PREVIEW: Lufthansa faces four-day strike from Monday =

join the strike.

Lufthansa, carried 55 million passengers in 2008, the most recent year covered by data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), making it the world's top full-price international carrier.

Including US and Chinese domestic carriers and Ryanair, Lufthansa Group ranked eighth by overall passenger numbers.

The German airline group has tried to rein in operating costs as the recession cuts into its passenger and cargo traffic. An austerity programme code-named Climb 2011 aims to shave 1 billion euros (1.4 billion dollars) annually off the parent's passenger fleet costs.

Lufthansa has taken over a series of other airlines, where pilots work for more modest wages. That is precisely what the Cockpit Association fears, since this expansion offers Lufthansa a way to gradually prune the best-paid part of its workforce.

The strike will not affect subsidiaries such as Swiss, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, British Midland, Eurowings, Air Dolomiti and Lufthansa Italia.

Feb 2110 1228 GMT

Load-Date: February 22, 2010

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Pilots hold course towards Lufthansa strike =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 21, 2010 Sunday 6:20 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 743 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Transport Labour ROUNDUP: Pilots hold course towards Lufthansa strike =
Frankfurt

Pilots at German airline Lufthansa on Sunday ignored appeals to abandon plans for a four-day strike that will force the cancellation of some 3,200 flights and snarl aviation worldwide.

The Cockpit Association, which has called the biggest airline strike in Germany's history, said it assumed the strike was on, despite a last-minute appeal by managers for talks.

Lufthansa says it will offer a skeleton service from Monday to Thursday, employing pilots who normally work in the management and are no longer in the union.

Its subsidiary Swiss and its Star Alliance partner LOT of Poland are to fly bigger planes in and out of Germany this week to make up some of the shortfall.

Germany has never suffered disruption of its air traffic on such a scale.

The only parallels in the past decade in Europe were strikes that disrupted Alitalia in 2008 and Sabena in 2001 as those companies were on the brink of collapse, and a 36-hour strike by French air traffic controllers that grounded most aviation in France in 2001.

Lufthansa carries 150,000 passengers a day, or 55 million a year. The most recent data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), for 2008, indicates it is the world's top full-price international carrier by passenger numbers.

Including US and Chinese domestic carriers and Ryanair, Lufthansa Group ranked eighth by overall passenger numbers.

ROUNDUP: Pilots hold course towards Lufthansa strike =

As midnight approached, Lufthansa management suggested "unconditional" talks with the union, but demanded the pilots drop their agenda, which seeks pay hikes, job guarantees and an end to pay differentials between Lufthansa in Germany and foreign subsidiaries.

Experienced Lufthansa flight captains earn between 110,000 and 250,000 euros (150,000 and 340,000 dollars) per year. The maximum is approximately the same as the pay package for Germany's chancellor.

Joerg Handwerg of Cockpit said, "I'm firmly convinced we will be striking tomorrow."

German Transport Minister Peter Ramsauer offered to mediate, but there was no sign this had changed anything. Ramsauer said he was sure neither side wanted to fight to the bitter end.

More than 4,000 Cockpit members are to stop work at Lufthansa passenger services, the European budget airline unit Germanwings and Lufthansa Cargo.

Months of talks which began last May ended in deadlock. The union took a strike vote. Members last week authorized an all-out stoppage.

The strike has won little sympathy from other company employees, such as cabin crew and ground staff, who are paid far less, not to mention check-in and telesales staff who must deal with angry customers.

Lufthansa may be short of parking space at main German airports for all the jets that will be idle from Monday. Pilots still abroad early Monday were told to work one more homebound leg, then join the strike.

Lufthansa estimates one third of scheduled flights of jets sporting the Lufthansa bird logo can proceed and it will charter planes from other carriers to keep two thirds of Germanwings flights working.

Lufthansa chief human resources officer Stefan Lauer said the company was willing to meet pilot demands by promising no sackings up to the end of 2012, but required a pay freeze of more than the 12 months so far offered by Cockpit in wage bargaining.

The main issue at stake is the fear among pilots that low-pay subsidiaries will take over routes where parent-company pilots currently earn good wages. It is demanding the German pay scale be applied to subsidiaries taking over parent-company routes.

Cockpit spokesman Handwerg charged that Lufthansa Group's fleet had grown in eight years from 300 to 850, but only two of the additional planes were piloted at Lufthansa pay scales.

Lufthansa is trying to reschedule passengers onto jets flown by the non-union staff or onto trains, and is offering refunds to passengers who must cancel trips. There has been a rush in recent days to book with other airlines.

The German airline group has tried to rein in operating costs as the recession cuts into its passenger and cargo traffic. An austerity programme code-named Climb 2011 aims to shave 1 billion euros (1.4 billion dollars) annually off the parent's passenger fleet costs.

ROUNDUP: Pilots hold course towards Lufthansa strike =

The strike will not affect subsidiaries such as Swiss, Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, British Midland, Eurowings, Air Dolomiti and Lufthansa Italia.

Feb 2110 1820 GMT

Load-Date: February 22, 2010

End of Document



Lithuania boosted by new Ryanair hub in Kaunas =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 10, 2010 Wednesday 10:51 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 271 words

Dateline: Vilnius

Body

DPA FINANCE Lithuania Business Aviation Latvia Lithuania boosted by new Ryanair hub in Kaunas =
Vilnius

Lithuania celebrated Wednesday the decision by
Irish low-cost airline Ryanair to invest 140 million dollars in a new
hub in the country's second-largest city, Kaunas.

Riga airport had been hoping to attract Ryanair to Latvia, but on
Tuesday the company announced it had plumped for Kaunas.

"We're excited about this decision," Mantas Nocius of the
Lithuanian Development Agency told the German Press Agency dpa. "It's
a good sign for a small town like Kaunas."

Nocius said new low tariffs introduced by the Lithuanian
authorities had made the Irish carrier choose Lithuania as its first
hub in central and eastern Europe.

Ryanair - which already operates at Kaunas airport - will build a
new hangar at the airport, base two aircraft there and increase the
number of its flights from nine to 18.

Announcing the decision, Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary
singled out Latvia's airBaltic - which also operates out of Kaunas -
for criticism, accusing it of charging high fares.

However airBaltic was quick to react, winning approval Tuesday
from the the Latvian government for construction of a new airBaltic
terminal in Riga.

The airline's German president and Chief Executive Bertolt Flick
said the 58,000-square-metre-terminal would be able to handle up to
15 million passengers per year.

"The infrastructure of Riga airport has already reached its design

Lithuania boosted by new Ryanair hub in Kaunas =

capacity limits, so a new terminal is acutely needed to accommodate growing passenger numbers," Flick said in a statement.

Feb 1010 1051 GMT

Load-Date: February 11, 2010

End of Document



Ryanair increases profit forecast despite losses =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 1, 2010 Monday 1:45 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 195 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair increases profit forecast despite losses = Dublin/London
Europe's biggest low cost airline Ryanair
raised its profit forecast Monday despite third quarter losses of 11
million euros (15.4 million dollars).

A drop of 37 per cent in fuel prices had helped to counteract a 12
per cent decline in fare prices, the airline said. It had also cut
unprofitable routes.

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's CEO, said that the loss was
"disappointing" though "a significant improvement" on last year's
loss of 102 million euros.

The company is now predicting a full year net profit of 275
million euros at the end of the financial year in March.

In the third quarter, 16 million passengers flew with Ryanair, 14
per cent more than in the same period the previous year.

O'Leary said that with the "increasing pace of consolidation and
closures among our competitors allied to Ryanair's continuing fleet
expansion", the company expected to continue to gain market share,
especially in Italy, Scandinavia, Spain and Britain.

The company expects passenger numbers to increase by 10 per cent
to 73 million in the next financial year.

Feb 0110 1345 GMT

Load-Date: February 2, 2010



REFILE (eca069): Passenger plane slides off runway in Scotland

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 23, 2009 Wednesday 9:47 AM EST

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Length: 112 words

Body

DPA x Britain Accidents Aviation REFILE (eca069): Passenger plane slides off runway in Scotland
Eds: refiles with name of airline in lead, passenger figure graf 2 =

London (dpa) - A Ryanair jet coming into land overshot the runway at an airport in Scotland, northern Britain, police said Wednesday.

The accident happened at Prestwick airport near Glasgow, Scotland's second-biggest city. None of the 129 people on board were hurt, police said.

Scotland experienced heavy snowfalls and icy conditions overnight.

According to initial eyewitness reports, the plane came to rest partially on grass off the runway. Emergency vehicles were at the scene.

Dec 2309 0947 GMT

Load-Date: December 24, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair ends talks on post-2012 Boeing orders in new strategy =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 18, 2009 Friday 9:37 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 242 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Transport Aviation Ryanair ends talks on post-2012 Boeing orders in new strategy =
London

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair has ended negotiations with US manufacturer Boeing for the purchase of up to 200 aircraft from 2012, the airline said Friday.

"We regret that our prolonged negotiations with Boeing have failed to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion," Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary said in a statement.

He said while Ryanair had reached agreement with Boeing on the pricing for 200 aircraft deliveries during the 2013/16 period, the US supplier had been unwilling "to incorporate some other terms and conditions from our existing agreement into this new aircraft order."

A separate deal for the delivery of 112 Boeing 737s over the next three years would still go ahead.

Ryanair said it had no intention to reopen talks with other aircraft manufacturers as it was aiming to "reduce growth and capital expenditure beyond 2012 to maximise returns to shareholders."

The airline, which currently operates a fleet of 202 Boeing 737s, said that 48 new planes were due next year, followed by 37 in 2011 and 27 in 2012.

O'Leary said the company would brief shareholders on the revised strategy early in 2010.

"I believe it is appropriate to return these surplus funds to shareholders, if we cannot use them to purchase aircraft on terms which enable us to meet our demanding return on capital targets," O'Leary said.

Dec 1809 0937 GMT

Ryanair ends talks on post-2012 Boeing orders in new strategy =

Load-Date: December 19, 2009

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair signals new strategy by ending Boeing talks =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 18, 2009 Friday 2:55 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 429 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Transport Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair signals new strategy by ending Boeing talks =
London

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair Friday scrapped plans for an order of 200 new aircraft from US manufacturer Boeing in what it said was a revised strategy aimed at cutting future capital expenditure.

The Boeing 737-800 aircraft, which were due to be delivered after 2012, would have had an estimated value of 9.2 billion pounds (15 billion dollars), aviation analysts said.

Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary said in a statement that the company had no plans to "reopen discussions with Boeing or any other manufacturers."

Instead, the no-frills airline would focus its efforts on maintaining strong traffic and new route growth into 2010 and brief shareholders of its "revised strategy which will comprise much reduced capital expenditure through 2011 and 2012."

The statement said Ryanair regretted that the prolonged negotiations with Boeing had "failed to reach a mutually acceptable conclusion."

While agreement had been reached on pricing for deliveries during the 2013-16 period, the US supplier had been unwilling "to incorporate some other terms and conditions from our existing agreement into this new aircraft order."

A separate deal for the delivery of 112 Boeing 737s over the next three years would still go ahead.

Analysts said the move indicated that Ryanair could be preparing to pay shareholders a special dividend for the first time in its

ROUNDUP: Ryanair signals new strategy by ending Boeing talks =

12-year-existence.

"I believe it is appropriate to return these surplus funds to shareholders, if we cannot use them to purchase aircraft on terms which enable us to meet our demanding return on capital targets," O'Leary said.

But Ryanair's main rival, Easyjet, interpreted the withdrawal from the aircraft purchase as a sign that the era of rapid growth in budget airlines and their fleets was coming to an end.

"The era of endless fast growth and even larger aircraft fleets is near its end. Low-cost airlines are now the mainstream way to fly in Europe. As such, it's getting difficult to find significant new passenger traffic which is profitable," Easyjet founder Stelios Haji-Ioannou told the Guardian newspaper.

Ryanair has vowed to get through the recession and spiralling costs without fare increases or fuel surcharges. The airline currently operates a fleet of 202 Boeing 737-800 aircraft.

In early November, Ryanair reported a half-year pre-tax profit of 419.4 million euros (618.4 million dollars) but warned that continued cut-price fares could result in losses for the full financial year.

Dec 1809 1455 GMT

Load-Date: December 19, 2009

End of Document

Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =



Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 18, 2009 Friday 11:06 AM EST

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Length: 859 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1100 Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0700-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852-31472 Fax: 31479
(2000-0400 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66-2-714 2073/4/5/6 Fax: 2071
(Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

EUROPE:

Moscow - Russia, US agree on core issues of new disarmament
treaty - report (Russia-Defence/US)

Berlin - Merkel staves off mutiny to push tax deal through
(Germany-Politics/Economy)

Paris - Chirac is placed under formal investigation for
corruption (France-Justice/Chirac)

Berlin - German business posts ninth monthly rise
(Germany-Economy)

Barcelona - Spanish region of Catalonia approves ban on
bullfighting (Spain-Culture/Bullfighting)

Warsaw - Sign stolen from Auschwitz
(Poland-Crime/Holocaust)

Belgrade - Serbs, Montenegrins and Macedonians to get visa-free
EU travel (Balkans-Travel/EU)

London - Ryanair ends talks on post-2012 Boeing orders in new
strategy (Britain-Transport/Aviation)

Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =

Various datelines - Snow disrupts transport in Europe
(Europe-Weather)

Vatican City - Vatican lights Christmas tree in St Peter's Square
(Vatican-Religion)

MIDEAST:

Beirut - Search for more survivors of ship which
sank off Lebanon
(Lebanon-Accidents/Transport)

Kirkuk - Mass grave excavated near disputed Iraqi city of
Kirkuk (Iraq-Conflicts)

ASIA:

New Delhi - Mumbai accused retracts statement, denies charges
(India-Justice/Terrorism/Pakistan, roundup to come)

Islamabad - Blast near police office kills seven in Pakistan
(Pakistan-Conflicts, roundup to come)

- Pakistani defence minister barred from foreign visit
(Pakistan-Politics)

Yangon - Bomb kills seven, injures 11 in Myanmar's Karen State
(Myanmar-Conflicts)

Manila - Philippine volcano spews more ash, lava with
increasing intensity
(Philippine-Nature)

- Three people killed in communist rebel attack in
Philippines
(Philippines-Conflicts)

AFRICA:

Windhoek - Namibia election challenge hearing postponed
(Namibia-Politics)

=====

dpa World Climate Summit Coverage

Copenhagen - US-China tensions re-surface on last day of
Copenhagen talks (World-Climate)

Copenhagen - US President Barack Obama at Climate Summit, Summit
concludes (World-Climate/US)

Copenhagen - Climate mini-summit splinters as talks waver
(World-Climate)

Copenhagen - EXTRA: Not a throne, but The Chair for Obama in TV
studio (World-Climate/US)

Copenhagen - Climate declaration by morning as deal
inches nearer. By Ben Nimmo
(809 words/World-Climate, 3rd Roundup)

Hanoi - FEATURE: Renewable energy in Vietnam mostly still

Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =

potential. By Matt Steinglass
(900 words/World-Climate/Vietnam/)

Cape Town - FEATURE: Alien trees target of South Africa's fight
for environment. By Clare Byrne
(829 words/World-Climate/SAfrica/Water)

=====

SPORT PLANNED:

FOOTBALL

Gelsenkirchen,- German Bundesliga:
Germany Schalke 04 vs Mainz 05
(Football-Germany)

Nyon, - Champions League round of 16 draw
Switzerland (Football-Champions/Draw)

- Europa League round of 32 and round of 16 draw
(Football-EuropaLeague/Draw)

ALPINE SKIING

Val d'Isere, - Women's World Cup combined
France (Alpineski-WorldCup/France)

Val Gardena, - Men's World Cup super-g
Italy (Alpineski-WorldCup/Italy)

NORDIC SKI

Ramsau, - World Cup nordic combined race
Austria (Nordicski-WorldCup/Austria)

SKI-JUMPING

Engelberg, - World Cup ski-jumping event
Switzerland (Skijump-WorldCup/Swiss)

SPORT MOVED:

Vientiane - ROUNDUP: Thailand pips Vietnam in gold medal haul
at SE Asian Games
(400 words/Sports-Laos)

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - ROUNDUP: Wade, Heat make Magic disappear, 106-84
By Paul Levine
(620 words/Basketball-NBA)

BACKGROUNDERS AND BYLINERS:

Madrid - NEWS FEATURE: Sahara activist wins her battle to
return home. By Sinikka Tarvainen
(682 words/Spain-Diplomacy/Sahara/Morocco)

=====

dpa SPECIAL YEARENDER PACKAGE: AFRICA IN 2009
See separate schedule

=====

Dec 1809 1106 GMT

Schedule for Friday, December 18, 1100 GMT =

Load-Date: December 19, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair jet blows roof-tiles off house on landing approach =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 13, 2009 Friday 11:46 AM EST

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Length: 133 words

Dateline: Luebeck

Body

DPA x Germany Aviation Accidents Ryanair jet blows roof-tiles off house on landing approach = Luebeck
Turbulence from the wake of a landing Ryanair jet
blew roof-tiles off a house near Luebeck airport, an airport
spokeswoman said Friday.

The tiles were sucked off the roof by a swirling column of air and
dashed into the garden beneath, frightening the 81-year-old female
occupant of the house in northern Germany, local media reported.

The precise cause of the incident was not clear however, as
airport authorities said that the jet was at its normal approach-
height when it overflowed the house. Eyewitnesses, the Luebecker News
said, claimed that the plane was flying too low.

"We regret this incident, and are taking it seriously," airport
spokeswoman Kirsten Nielsen said.

Nov 1309 1146 GMT

Load-Date: November 14, 2009



ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports profits, warns Boeing to cut plane prices =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 2, 2009 Monday 12:00 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 560 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports profits, warns Boeing to cut plane prices
= London

Irish budget airline Ryanair Monday reported half-year pre-tax profits of 419.4 million euros (618.4 million dollars) but warned that continued cut-price fares would result in losses for the rest of the year.

The airline said falling fuel costs had boosted profits by 300 per cent in the six months up to the end of September. Results in the same six months last year were just 105.2 million euros.

Ryanair's passenger numbers grew to 36.4 million in the reporting period, an increase of 15 per cent over the same period last year.

In his results statement, Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary threatened to withdraw from talks with Boeing for the proposed acquisition of around 200 new planes if the US producer refused to cut its price.

"We won't continue these discussions indefinitely and have signalled to Boeing that if they are not completed before the year end, then Ryanair will end its relationship with Boeing and confirm a series of order deferrals and cancellations," he said.

Ryanair said revenue was down by 2 per cent at 1.8 billion euros but results were "heavily distorted" by a 42-per cent drop in fuel costs compared with the same period in 2008.

The airline said this "masked" a 17-per cent decline in average fares. Prices would fall 20 per cent over the rest of the year, resulting in losses for the last two quarters, it said.

Unlike other airlines, Ryanair has vowed not to introduce fuel surcharges as a result of high oil prices last year and said it would continue offering low fares throughout the recession.

ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports profits, warns Boeing to cut plane prices =

O'Leary said market conditions were "still difficult" due to what he called an "absence of consumer confidence."

However, the group would be "substantially profitable at a time when many of our competitors are losing money, consolidating or going bust," he said.

Traffic growth was strong "at the expense of declining average fares," he said, adding that the weakness of the British pound and rising tourist taxes in Britain and Ireland had hit takings.

Ryanair had won customers from high-fare carriers led by Air France, British Airways and Lufthansa and expected the trend to continue, said O'Leary.

He said he was planning to switch some of Ryanair's winter capacity to "lower cost countries" such as Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain due to high airport charges and "stupid tourist taxes."

However, he also insisted that the airline remained "ideally positioned to return to substantial profit growth" as Europe emerged from the economic downturn.

O'Leary said he would consider "binning growth plans" if he could not agree a deal with Boeing over an order for 200 aircraft due for delivery between 2013 and 2016.

"We see no point in continuing to grow rapidly in a declining yield environment, where our main aircraft partner is unwilling to play its part in our cost reduction programme by passing on some of the enormous savings which Boeing have enjoyed both from suppliers and more efficient manufacturing in recent years," he said.

"We would prefer to grow, but if Boeing doesn't share our vision, then I believe that Ryanair should change course before the end of this fiscal year and manage the airline over the next three years to maximise cash for distribution to shareholders," he said.

Nov 0209 1200 GMT

Load-Date: November 3, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair reports half-year profits but warns of full-year loss =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 2, 2009 Monday 8:16 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 172 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair reports half-year profits but warns of full-year loss =
London

Irish budget airline Ryanair Monday reported half-year pre-tax profits of 419.4 million euros (618.4 million dollars) but warned that continued cut-price fares would result in losses for the rest of the year.

The airline said falling fuel costs had boosted profits in the six months up to the end of September. Results in the same six months last year were 105.2 million euros.

Ryanair said revenue was down by 2 per cent but results were "heavily distorted" by a 42-per cent drop in fuel costs compared with the same period in 2008.

The airline said this "masked" a 17-per cent decline in average fares. Prices would fall 20 per cent over the rest of the year, resulting in losses for the last two quarters, it said.

Unlike other airlines, Ryanair has vowed not to introduce fuel surcharges as a result of high oil prices last year and said it would continue offering low fares throughout the recession.

Nov 0209 0816 GMT

Load-Date: November 3, 2009

Ryanair to raise charges for check-in luggage by 50 per cent =



Ryanair to raise charges for check-in luggage by 50 per cent =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 4, 2009 Friday 2:21 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 171 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Ryanair to raise charges for check-in luggage by 50 per cent = London
Budget airline Ryanair is to increase its charges
for check-in luggage by 50 per cent from October in a move designed
to make passengers take carry-on-luggage only, the airline said
Friday.

From October 1 the charge for bags carried in the hold of aircraft
will rise from 20 to 30 pounds (32 to 49 dollars) for luggage checked
in at the airport.

The hold baggage charge for online check-in will rise from 10 to
15 pounds.

At the same time, passengers will, for the first time, be allowed
to travel with two checked-in bags, which have to be paid for
separately. The total baggage allowance will be doubled to 30
kilograms.

Hand luggage will continue to be free of charge, the Irish carrier
said.

"In order to persuade passengers to travel with carry-on bags
only, and to defray the cost of some of these fare reductions, we are
increasing baggage allowances and fees with effect from October 1,"
said the airline.

Sep 0409 1421 GMT

Load-Date: September 5, 2009



Slovakia-owned budget airline stops British flights =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 1, 2009 Tuesday 12:37 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 134 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Slovakia-owned budget airline stops British flights = London
A Slovakia-owned budget airline Tuesday cancelled
all flights out of Britain owing to financial problems, Britain's
travel association ABTA said.

Slovakia-based SkyEurope had been offering services from Luton
airport, near London, and from Manchester, in northern England, to
Prague and the Czech Republic as well as to the Slovakian
destinations of Poprad, Kosice and Bratislava.

ABTA, the Association of British Travel Agents and Tour Operators,
said passengers who had booked on credit cards and those with package
deals were likely to be protected under existing insurance schemes.

Low-fare airlines Ryanair and easyJet both offered special fares
to get SkyEurope passengers home, report said.

Sep 0109 1237 GMT

Load-Date: September 2, 2009

Ryanair warns that annual profits could be hit by low fares =



Ryanair warns that annual profits could be hit by low fares =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 27, 2009 Monday 7:57 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 160 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Ryanair warns that annual profits could be hit by low fares = London
Irish budget airline Ryanair has given a warning
that its policy of drastic price cuts to attract passengers could
have a negative impact on full year profits.

The group said Monday that annual net profits were now expected at
the lower end of market forecasts of between 200 million
euros (285 million dollars) and 300 million euros.

Ryanair reduced fares by 13 per cent on average over the three
months to June 30, which saw revenues come under pressure, although
significantly lower fuel costs helped profits climb almost
seven-fold.

Ryanair, which last week announced it was cutting its winter
services out of London's Stansted airport by 40 per cent, recently
reported first quarter net profits of 136.5 million euros.

Its revenues fell slightly, down by 0.3 per cent, to 774.7 million
euros, while passenger numbers rose by 11 per cent.

Jul 27 09 0757 GMT

Load-Date: July 28, 2009

End of Document



Lufthansa: Airline industry in "worst crisis in its history" =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 24, 2009 Friday 2:22 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 253 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Aviation Lufthansa Lufthansa: Airline industry in "worst crisis in its history" = Berlin

Germany's flagship airline Lufthansa said Friday that the current problems of the airline industry amounted to "the worst crisis in its history," citing falling passenger numbers and crippling ticket-price wars.

Lufthansa board member Roland Busch said in a company publication appearing Friday that "demand has fallen in all areas of the business."

Busch added that in the economy class segment, passenger numbers had "sunk drastically."

Last week Lufthansa said it was planning to trim its workforce workforce as part of a new cost-cutting drive aimed at saving 1 billion euros (1.41 billion dollars) by the end of 2011.

Lufthansa has for the past three years attempted to compete with budget airlines such as Ryanair and Easyjet on European routes by offering 99-euro fares on its flights.

Busch said passengers were no longer choosing airlines based on brand loyalty or the benefits of frequent flyer programmes, but solely on price.

"The keyword here is 'Best Buy'," he said.

The cost-cutting measures, to be launched under the airline's so-called "Climb 2011" programme, come as the global aviation business struggles in the face of the world economic downturn.

In June, global airline body IATA said the world's airlines were expected to lose 9 billion dollars this year.

Lufthansa : Airline industry in "worst crisis in its history" =

Lufthansa issued a profit warning last month, saying it was hoping to avoid posting an operating loss in 2009.

Jul 2409 1422 GMT

Load-Date: July 25, 2009

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Spanish queen not amused by Ryanair publicity campaign =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 5, 2009 Friday 2:20 PM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 234 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT Spain Royalty Ireland Media ROUNDUP: Spanish queen not amused by Ryanair publicity campaign = Madrid

The Spanish royal palace Friday accused the low-cost airline Ryanair of the unauthorized use of the image of Queen Sofia in its new publicity campaign.

Ryanair subsequently apologized, saying in a statement that it had not meant to "offend" the queen.

The palace had not been consulted, nor had it authorized the airline to advertise the fact that Sofia flew with Ryanair last week, a palace spokesman said.

The 70-year-old queen took Ryanair flights from London to the northern Spanish city of Santander, where she needed to be present at a military parade, and back again.

Sofia was visiting the British capital to see her brother, former king Constantine of Greece, who was undergoing a heart operation.

Spanish newspapers Friday published large Ryanair ads with a picture of the queen and the slogans: "Fly like a monarch" and "Queen Sofia flies low cost."

Ryanair said it would donate 5,000 euros (7,000 dollars) to a charity institution chosen by the queen to thank her.

The palace expressed "annoyance and surprise" over the campaign, saying it was studying possible measures against it.

In 2008, Ryanair was ordered to pay 60,000 euros in damages to French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni for using their picture in an advertisement.

ROUNDUP: Spanish queen not amused by Ryanair publicity campaign =

Jun 0509 1420 GMT

Load-Date: June 6, 2009

End of Document



Spanish queen annoyed over Ryanair publicity campaign =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 5, 2009 Friday 11:54 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 217 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT Spain Royalty Ireland Media Spanish queen annoyed over Ryanair publicity campaign = Madrid

The Spanish royal palace Friday accused the low-cost airline Ryanair of the unauthorized use of the image of Queen Sofia in its new publicity campaign.

The palace had not been consulted, nor had it authorized the airline to advertise the fact that the queen flew with Ryanair last week, a palace spokesman said.

The 70-year-old queen took Ryanair flights from London to the northern Spanish city of Santander, where she needed to be present at a military parade, and back again.

The queen was visiting the British capital to see her brother, former king Constantine of Greece, who was undergoing a heart operation.

Spanish newspapers Friday published large Ryanair ads with a picture of the queen and the slogans: "Fly like a monarch" and "Queen Sofia flies low cost."

Ryanair said it would donate 5,000 euros (7,000 dollars) to a charity institution chosen by the queen to thank her.

The palace expressed "annoyance and surprise" over the campaign, saying it was studying possible measures against it.

In 2008, Ryanair was ordered to pay 60,000 euros in damages to French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his wife Carla Bruni for using their picture in an advertisement.

Jun 0509 1154 GMT

Spanish queen annoyed over Ryanair publicity campaign =

Load-Date: June 6, 2009

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports first ever annual loss =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 2, 2009 Tuesday 11:39 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 374 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports first ever annual loss = London
European budget airline Ryanair reported
the first loss in its 24-year-history Tuesday, saying it had
gone into the red by 169 million euros (239 million dollars) last
year due to high fuel bills and writedowns linked to its stake in
rival Aer Lingus.

The pre-tax loss in the year up to the end of March 2009,
compares with a profit of 481 million euros in the previous year, the
Dublin-based Irish low-cost carrier said.

Ryanair said that the cost of fuel rose by 59 per cent to 1.26
billion euros in the reporting period, accounting for 45 per cent of
operating costs.

However, annual sales were up by 8.4 per cent to 2.94 billion
euros and passenger numbers increased by 15 per cent to 59 million,
overtaking those of Air France, British Airways and Lufthansa,
Ryanair said.

The fundamental strength of the Ryanair model had been underlined
by the passenger growth achieved despite the global recession and
record high oil prices, Ryanair said.

Chief executive Michael O'Leary, in typically buoyant mood,
predicted that the airline would make profits of between 200 and 300
million euros in the current financial year, while most of Ryanair's
competitors would be reporting "material traffic and yield declines."

He said Ryanair expected a further traffic growth of 15 per cent
to 67 million passengers in the current financial year as the airline
continued to drive down costs and fares and in an attempt to "gain
traffic from high fare competitors."

ROUNDUP: Ryanair reports first ever annual loss =

Significantly lower oil prices had enabled Ryanair to secure 90 per cent of its fuel requirements as the company expected fuel costs to be 450 million euros lower this year.

Ryanair said it had written down the value of its 29.8-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus by a further 222 million euros, after Aer Lingus' share price fell.

Ryanair had two takeover approaches for Aer Lingus rejected since 2006, the last being turned down in January this year by the Irish government, which is the second-largest shareholder in Aer Lingus.

Ryanair's stake in Aer Lingus had proved to be "an albatross around the company's neck," analyst Richard Hunter of Hargreaves Lansdown Stockbrokers said Tuesday.

Jun 0209 1139 GMT

Load-Date: June 3, 2009

End of Document



Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 2, 2009 Tuesday 10:01 AM EST

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Length: 1281 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1000 Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0700-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852-31472 Fax: 31479
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66-2-714 2073/4/5/6 Fax: 2071
Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

MIDEAST:

Riyadh - US President Obama arrives in Saudi Arabia
(Saudi-Diplomacy/US)

Baghdad - Developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

Tel Aviv - Situation in the Middle East
(Mideast-Conflicts)

Tel Aviv - Israel stages nationwide bomb-shelter drill
(Mideast-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Paris - Search on missing Air France jet, 228 feared dead
(France-Accidents/Aviation/Brazil)

Copenhagen/ - Parliamentary elections in Greenland,
Nuuk (Greenland-Elections/Denmark)

Stockholm - Palestinian Tamer Institute for Community Education,
to receive Astrid Lindgren award
(Sweden-Culture)

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

Dublin - Ryanair reports first annual loss in 2008/2009
(Britain-Business/Aviation)

Istanbul - Turkish firefighters find eight murder victims
(Turkey-Crime)

AMERICAS:

San Pedro - Organization of American States, General
Sula, Honduras Assembly in Honduras; Cuba on agenda
(US-Politics/OAS)

ASIA:

Kabul - Developments in Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts)

Cheju Island, - Summit between South Korea and the Association of
South-East Asian Nations ends
(SKorea-Diplomacy/ASEAN,
NKorea-Conflicts/Nuclear/SKorea/ASEAN)

Jakarta - Indonesia to kick off campaign for July 8
presidential election
(Indonesia-Elections)

Taipei - Graft trial of Taiwan's ex-president Chen Shui-bian
to resume
(Taiwan-Justice/Politics)

AFRICA:

Nairobi - Aid agency warns of "catastrophe" in Somalia
(Somalia-Conflicts)

SPORT:

TENNIS
Paris - French Open Grand Slam tournament
(Tennis-French/Open)

CYCLING
Rome - Giro d'Italia, 22nd stage:
(Cycling-Giro)

BACKGROUNDERS AND BYLINERS:

US PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST

Cairo/
Washington - PREVIEW: Obama faces tough crowd with speech to
Muslim world. By Elijah Zarwan and Chris Cermak
(909 words/US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

Washington - BACKGROUND: Obama open to Islam in writings, comments
(538 words/US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

COVERAGE OF GENERAL MOTORS BANKRUPTCY

Washington - ANALYSIS: GM faces uncertain path through bankruptcy.

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

By Chris Cermak
(833 words/US-Automotive)

Washington - BACKGROUND: GM joins six other firms part-owned by US government
(196 words/US-Automotive)

New York - BACKGROUND: Details of GM's "speedy" bankruptcy
(529 words/US-Automotive)

- BACKGROUND: General Motors in numbers =
(177 words/US-Automotive)

Los Angeles - NEWS FEATURE: US downsizes - from cows to cars to careers. By Andy Goldberg
(601 words/US-Economy)

San Pedro - ROUNDUP: US evaluates joining majority proposal on
Sula/Honduras - Cuba at OAS
(633 words/OAS-Diplomacy/Cuba)

COVERAGE OF MISSING AIR FRANCE PLANE

Paris/Rio de Janeiro - 2ND LEAD: Search on for missing Air France jet, 228 feared dead
(France-Accidents/Story updated throughout day)

Sao Paulo - ROUNDUP: Brazilian prince travelling on missing plane
(196 words/France-Accidents/People)

=====

dpa PACKAGE: JUNE 7 LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
Ran 0500 Tuesday

Beirut - PREVIEW: Lebanon awaits decisive parliamentary election
By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: Hariri bids in poll for unity - and to stay in power
By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: Time for change, says Hezbollah-allied Christian leader
By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: EU observers preparing for "complex" Lebanese challenge
By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections/EU)

Beirut - FEATURE: Political success in Lebanon runs in the family

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - BACKGROUND: Who's who in Lebanese politics
(500 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - BACKGROUND: Lebanon's confessional parliament
(500 words/Lebanon-Elections)

=====

dpa PACKAGE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRACKDOWN ON CHINA
DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT
Ran 0645 Tuesday

Taipei - ANALYSIS: "Fear of collapse" bars reassessment of
1989 crackdown. By dpa correspondents
(880 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

Beijing - FEATURE: Purged leader's book reignites party debate.
By dpa correspondents
(800 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

- PROFILE: Bereaved "Tiananmen Mother" Ding Zilin
demands answers. By Bill Smith
(910 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

- INTERVIEW: Chinese union leader fights on for workers
rights. By Bill Smith
(975 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

- BACKGROUND: The bloody end to China's 1989 protests.
By Bill Smith
(940 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

- CHRONOLOGY: China's 1989 democracy movement.
By dpa correspondents
(465 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen, after 0600)

=====

dpa-SPECIALS

Sydney - Drivers, not dingoes, are the Fraser Island
killers
(440 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305 Tuesday)

Saint- - When hiking in the Cevennes, the donkeys know
Jean-du-Gard, best. By Andrea Loebbecke
France (510 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Berlin - Site of key ancient battle fascinates tourists.
By Andreas Heimann
(690 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Belgrade - Medieval monasteries in Serbia and Kosovo are gems
off beaten path. By Thomas Brey
(575 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Dublin - Western Ireland an ideal venue for adventure
holidays. By Nicole Jankowski

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1000 GMT =

(520 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Miami - Big savings to be made on holidays in the US.
By Christian Roewekamp
(480 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Jun 0209 1001 GMT

Load-Date: June 3, 2009

End of Document

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =



Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 2, 2009 Tuesday 2:12 PM EST

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Length: 1382 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1400 Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0700-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852 31472 Fax: 31479
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66 2 714 2073/4/5/6 Fax: 2071
(Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Islamabad - Pakistani court frees head of terrorist organization
(Pakistan-Justice/Terrorism, by 1500)

Sao Paulo/ - Wreckage found in Atlantic in Air France
Paris search
(France-Accidents/Aviation/Brazil, by 1800)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

San Pedro - US evaluates joining majority proposal on Cuba at OAS
Sula, Honduras (633 words/OAS-Diplomacy/Cuba)

Sao Paulo - Brazilian prince travelling on missing plane
(196 words/France-Accidents/People)

Wellington - New Zealand leader bows to pressure over expenses
(490 words/NewZealand-Politics)

Tokyo - Japan's Nikkei hits eight-month high
(180 words/Japan-Markets)

Istanbul - Turkish man arrested over murder of eight relatives
(166 words/Turkey-Crime)

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

Cotabato City - Philippine troops kill five Muslim separatist rebels
(267 words/Philippine-Conflicts)

London - Ryanair reports first ever annual loss
(383 words/Britain-Business/Aviation)

Seoul - Report: North Korea planning to test medium-range
rocket (546 words/NKorea-Conflicts/Nuclear)

- North Korean leader's youngest son to succeed him
(586 words/NKorea-Politics)

Tallinn - Estonian government coalition talks collapse
(303 words/Estonia-Politics)

Kiev - Ukraine bank bombed, 32 injured
(385 words/Ukraine-Crime)

Islamabad - Pakistan army rescues scores of cadets; others
missing (724 words/Pakistan-Conflicts)

Hamburg - Daum walks out on Cologne - linked with Fenerbahce
(300 words/Football-Germany/Turkey)

SPORT MOVED:

FOOTBALL

Hamburg - Daum walks out on Cologne - linked with Fenerbahce
(300 words/Football-Germany/Turkey)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS PLANNED:

Dresden, - PREVIEW: Once war-torn Dresden gears up Obama visit
Germany By Helen Maguire
(620 words/Germany-Diplomacy/US/after 0205 Wednesday)

Berlin - NEWS FEATURE: Berlin museum resists Jewish call
for return of gold. By Esteban Engel
(600 words/Germany-Culture/Wars/after 0205)

Seoul - Kim Jong Un: Political crown prince of North Korea?
(400 words/NKorea-Politics, by 1500)

dpa-SPECIALS PLANNED

Munich - Car air conditioners boost fuel consumption
(205 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305 Wednesday)

- Fog, rain or hail - BMW offers onboard radar
weather chart
(135 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305)

- BMW 5 Gran Turismo to debut at Frankfurt show
(320 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305)

Wolfsburg, - New VW Golf Estate launched
Germany (255 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305)

Strasbourg - Toyota Prius plug-in leased to customers in Europe
(245 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305)

Uitenhage, - Days of vintage Golf 1 in South Africa numbered

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

South Africa (190 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars/after 0305)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS MOVED:

Seoul - NEWS FEATURE: ASEAN-South Korea summit broadens cooperation. By Shery Ahn
(750 words/SKorea-Diplomacy/ASEAN)

Paris - NEWS FEATURE: Will we ever know what happened to flight AF 447? By Siegfried Morkowitz
(678 words/France-Accidents/Aviation)

Belgrade/
Zagreb - FEATURE: Corruption, politics: Huge loopholes for Balkans criminals. By Boris Babic
(643 words/Balkans-Crime)

Cairo/
Washington - PREVIEW: Obama faces tough crowd with speech to Muslim world. By Elijah Zarwan and Chris Cermak
(909 words/US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

Washington - BACKGROUND: Obama open to Islam in writings, comments
= (538 words/US-Diplomacy/Mideast)

Washington - ANALYSIS: GM faces uncertain path through bankruptcy. By Chris Cermak
(833 words/US-Automotive)

Washington - BACKGROUND: GM joins six other firms part-owned by US government
(196 words/US-Automotive)

New York - BACKGROUND: Details of GM's "speedy" bankruptcy
(529 words/US-Automotive)

- BACKGROUND: General Motors in numbers
(177 words/US-Automotive)

Los Angeles - NEWS FEATURE: US downsizes - from cows to cars to careers. By Andy Goldberg
(601 words/US-Economy)

=====

dpa PACKAGE: JUNE 7 LEBANESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Beirut - PREVIEW: Lebanon awaits decisive parliamentary election. By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: Hariri bids in poll for unity - and to stay in power. By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: Time for change, says Hezbollah-allied Christian leader. By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - INTERVIEW: EU observers preparing for "complex" Lebanese challenge. By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections/EU)

Beirut - FEATURE: Political success in Lebanon runs in the

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

family. By Weedah Hamza
(750 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - BACKGROUND: Who's who in Lebanese politics
(500 words/Lebanon-Elections)

Beirut - BACKGROUND: Lebanon's confessional parliament
(500 words/Lebanon-Elections)

=====

dpa PACKAGE: 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRACKDOWN ON CHINA DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

Taipei - ANALYSIS: "Fear of collapse" bars reassessment of
1989 crackdown. By dpa correspondents
(880 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

Beijing - FEATURE: Purged leader's book reignites party debate.
By dpa correspondents
(800 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

- PROFILE: Bereaved "Tiananmen Mother" Ding Zilin
demands answers. By Bill Smith
(910 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

- INTERVIEW: Chinese union leader fights on for workers
rights. By Bill Smith
(975 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

- BACKGROUND: The bloody end to China's 1989 protests.
By Bill Smith
(940 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

- CHRONOLOGY: China's 1989 democracy movement.
By dpa correspondents
(465 words/China-Politics/Tiananmen)

=====

dpa-SPECIALS MOVED:

Sydney - Drivers, not dingoes, are the Fraser Island
killers (440 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Saint- - When hiking in the Cevennes, the donkeys know
Jean-du-Gard, best. By Andrea Loebbecke
France (510 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Berlin - Site of key ancient battle fascinates tourists.
By Andreas Heimann
(690 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Belgrade - Medieval monasteries in Serbia and Kosovo are gems
off beaten path. By Thomas Brey
(575 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Dublin - Western Ireland an ideal venue for adventure
holidays. By Nicole Jankowski
(520 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Miami - Big savings to be made on holidays in the US.

Schedule for Tuesday, June 2, 1400 GMT =

By Christian Roewekamp
(480 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel)

Jun 0209 1412 GMT

Load-Date: June 3, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair reports first annual loss in 2008/2009 =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 2, 2009 Tuesday 7:20 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 145 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair reports first annual loss in 2008/2009 = London
Leading budget airline Ryanair reported its first annual pre-tax loss Tuesday, saying it had gone into the red by 169 million euros (239 million dollars) last year following a fuel bill increase of 59 per cent.

The loss run up by the end of March, 2009, compares with a profit of 481 million euros in the previous year and comes after Ryanair faced record oil prices and a hefty writedown on the value of its investment in rival Irish carrier Aer Lingus.

Ryanair said that the cost of fuel rose to 1.26 billion euros from 791.3 million euros a year before, as oil prices reached record highs during 2008.

The company said it had written down the value of its 29.8-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus by a further 222 million euros, after Aer Lingus' share price fell.

Jun 0209 0720 GMT

Load-Date: June 3, 2009



Spanish queen uses low-cost airline =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 2, 2009 Tuesday 9:48 AM EST

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Section: CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT

Length: 196 words

Dateline: Madrid

Body

DPA CULTURE, ENTERTAINMENT Spain Royalty Aviation Spanish queen uses low-cost airline = Madrid
Spain's Queen Sofia, 70, has twice used a low-cost
airline for private travel, Spanish media reported Tuesday.

On Thursday, Sofia had travelled to London, where her brother, the
former king Constantine of Greece, was to undergo a heart operation.

To return to Spain, Sofia took a Ryanair flight to the northern
city of Santander, where she needed to be present at a military
parade on Saturday, the daily Periodico reported.

Sofia then used the same airline to return to London on Sunday.

The low-cost airline was "the best option" for the queen, palace
sources were quoted as saying.

Spanish royals used regular flights for private travel, with the
exception of King Juan Carlos, who always travelled by military
plane, the sources explained.

Sofia's fellow passengers said they had paid 15 euros (21 dollars)
for the return trip between Santander and London.

The news about Sofia's choice came just as the opposition was
accusing the governing socialists of using military planes to go to
electoral rallies in the run-up to the European elections on June 7.

Jun 0209 0948 GMT

Load-Date: June 3, 2009

Nine airlines on EU "black list" for misleading websites =



Nine airlines on EU "black list" for misleading websites =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 14, 2009 Thursday 1:04 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 290 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Airlines Nine airlines on EU "black list" for misleading websites = Brussels
The European Union on Thursday publicly scolded
Emirates, Turkish, Royal Air Maroc and six other airlines for
persistently misleading customers on their websites.

The EU's "black list", which also includes the likes of Aeroflot,
Northwest and Olympic, emerged from an 18-month crackdown on
misleading adverts and unfair practices reported on 137 airline
websites in 15 EU countries plus Norway.

Many of the complaints refer to deceptive "headline" prices, which
disguise hidden extra costs.

To comply with EU consumer protection rules, websites were judged
according to a 14-point check list, which asked if all such extras
such as taxes, charges and fees were included, and if extra costs
were added as opt-in or opt-out options.

While 115 of the offending websites have since agreed to comply
with EU rules, the nine airlines either ignored or responded
inadequately to the EU's complaints, said EU Consumer Protection
Commissioner Meglena Kuneva.

"This a signal that they do not care about their customers,"
Kuneva said.

However officials pointed to the fact that the vast majority of
airlines - 52 out of 67 - have either been given a "clean bill of
health", or have promptly committed themselves
to addressing the issues raised.

That list now includes previous offenders such as low-cost carrier
Ryanair and Austrian Airlines.

Nine airlines on EU "black list" for misleading websites =

"This first pan-European enforcement investigation has shown it has real teeth and can deliver," Kuneva said.

The European Commission, which launched its investigation in September 2007, has given persistent offenders until July to remedy the situation or face the wrath of national regulators.

May 1409 1304 GMT

Load-Date: May 15, 2009

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Greece seals deal for sale of debt-ridden state airline

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 6, 2009 Friday 11:06 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 441 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Greece Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Greece seals deal for sale of debt-ridden state airline
Eds: Confirms earlier report =

Athens (dpa) - After years of failed privatization attempts, the Greek government sealed a deal Friday with the country's largest buyout firm, Marfin Investment Group, for the sale of debt-ridden carrier Olympic Airlines, said Development Minister Kostis Hatzidakis.

The deal involving Marfin (MIG) comes a month after the conservative government made a last-minute appeal for investors to rescue Olympic, after an international tender failed to produce satisfactory offers.

Marfin submitted a 62.4-million-euro (79-million-dollar) bid for Olympic's flight operations and technical maintenance base.

Although details of the deal were not immediately released, the government said MIG will be bound to take over the ground-handling unit, totaling 44.8 million euros, if negotiations with Swissport, a subsidiary of Spain's Ferrovial, fall through.

"All the advisors of the government have informed us that negotiations with MIG for the sale of Olympic's flight operations and technical maintenance has had a successful end," Hatzidakis said.

The Greek government said that it will still require the green light from the European Commission for the deal to become binding.

Last year, the Commission blocked an attempt by Ryanair to acquire rival Irish carrier Aer Lingus, saying that the move may destroy competition at Dublin Airport in Ireland.

The deal between Marfin and the Greek government was reportedly struck hours before MIG threatened to walk away and just as the government received two more bids to acquire the airline by Chrysler

ROUNDUP: Greece seals deal for sale of debt-ridden state airline

for 210 million euros, and by Greek private carrier Aegean Airlines.

Although Aegean, which is Olympic's main competitor for Greece's domestic routes, offered an attractive proposal of 170 million euros to purchase the ailing airline, many expressed fears that the sale could create a monopoly and eventually be blocked by the European Commission.

Founded in 1957 by shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, Olympic steadily declined after being operated for decades by the state, with reported losses of 450 million euros a year.

The government has spent years seeking private investors to take over the airline, but the process has been complicated by the European Commission's demand that the company repay unlawfully-distributed state aid.

The last attempt to privatize the airline was September 2008, when the government floated a tender to split the loss-making airline into three units - flying, ground handling and aircraft maintenance - to facilitate a sale.

Mar 0609 2306 GMT

Load-Date: March 7, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair chief says he might charge for spending a penny on board =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 27, 2009 Friday 12:45 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 257 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Ryanair chief says he might charge for spending a penny on board = London
After luggage check-in charges and speedy boarding fees, leading budget airline Ryanair is considering levies for the use of cabin loos to meet costs, chief executive Michael O'Leary said Friday.

The Irish entrepreneur said passengers might in future have to pay a pound (1.42 dollars) to spend a penny on his fleet. He did not reveal if and how the charge could possibly also be made in euros, given the airline's many European destinations.

"One thing we have looked at in the past and are looking at again is the possibility of maybe putting a coin slot on the toilet door so that people might actually have to spend a pound to spend a penny in future," O'Leary said on BBC television.

"We are always looking at ways of making air travel cheaper. We are all about finding ways of raising revenue so we can keep lowering air fares," he added.

Asked about the possibility that not all Ryanair travellers might have a spare pound in their pocket, he said: "I don't think there is anybody in history that has got on board a Ryanair aircraft with less than a pound."

Rochelle Turner, of consumer magazine Which? Holiday, said: "It seems Ryanair is prepared to plumb any depth to make a fast buck and, once again, is putting profit before the comfort of its customers."

"Charging people to go to the toilet might result in fewer people buying overpriced drinks on board, though - that would serve Ryanair right," she predicted.

Feb 27 09 1245 GMT

Ryanair chief says he might charge for spending a penny on board =

Load-Date: February 28, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair introduces new southern summer destinations from Frankfurt =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 24, 2009 Tuesday 1:36 PM EST

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Length: 127 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA x Germany Aviation Italy Ryanair introduces new southern summer destinations from Frankfurt = Berlin

Irish budget airline Ryanair is to include four new European destinations, including Rimini in Italy, in its summer timetable from Germany's Frankfurt Hahn airport.

This increases to 50 the number of routes from Frankfurt Hahn, the airline announced Tuesday.

Ryanair had promised to increase its operations at the airport, situated approximately 120 kilometres from the city of Frankfurt, after the airport operator cancelled a proposed three-euro departure tax in January.

Alongside Rimini, a popular Italian holiday resort, the new destinations in the summer schedule are Alicante in Spain, Carcassonne in France and Osijek in Croatia.

Feb 2409 1336 GMT

Load-Date: February 25, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair says sky is no longer the limit for mobile phone use =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 19, 2009 Thursday 12:53 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 165 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Ryanair says sky is no longer the limit for mobile phone use = London
Ryanair Thursday became the first low-cost airline
to launch an in-flight mobile phone service that will eventually be
extended to its entire fleet of more than 170 planes, the Irish
carrier said.

The system, available initially on 20 aircraft, would be extended
to the entire fleet over the next 18 months, following authorization
from European Union (EU) regulators.

Calls would cost between 1.50 pounds and 3 pounds (2.15 and 4.30
dollars) a minute, with text messages costing about 40 pence and
e-mails between 1 and 2 pounds.

"This service will allow passengers to keep in touch with the
office, family or friends. We expect customer demand for this service
to grow rapidly," said Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary.

A number of European airlines, including Air France-KLM, BA and
bmi are currently testing similar schemes, while Lufthansa has ruled
out using the service.

Feb 19 09 1253 GMT

Load-Date: February 20, 2009

DHL pulls out of airport on " Hungarian Sea", Lufthansa to stay =



DHL pulls out of airport on "Hungarian Sea", Lufthansa to stay =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 6, 2009 Friday 5:59 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 372 words

Dateline: Budapest

Body

DPA FINANCE Hungary Economy Aviation DHL pulls out of airport on "Hungarian Sea", Lufthansa to stay = Budapest

German courier DHL confirmed on Friday that it would close its logistics base at the FlyBalaton airport, in another blow to the struggling provincial airport in western Hungary, next to Central Europe's largest lake.

DHL established a cargo base at the airport in the autumn of 2007, but last summer stopped running daily flights from Dresden in Germany. The base is to close by the end of February.

As DHL confirmed newspaper reports that it was pulling out entirely, Cape Clear Aviation - the Irish-Hungarian company behind FlyBalaton - was already in desperate talks with partners to try and secure traffic for the airport from spring.

The airport suffered a major blow last year when its biggest customer, the Irish budget airline Ryanair, cancelled all routes to FlyBalaton in October.

This move prompted management to suspend all winter flights.

One ray of hope for the troubled airport comes from the German airline Lufthansa, which is reportedly already selling tickets for flights to Lake Balaton from April.

The Hungarian government is keen to revamp Lake Balaton - a popular tourist destination for Eastern Europeans during the communist era - as part of its New National Development Plan.

"The Hungarian state attaches great importance to the continuing operation of (the airport)," Tamas Suchmann, president of the Balaton Development Council said on Friday.

DHL pulls out of airport on " Hungarian Sea", Lufthansa to stay =

In earlier interviews, Suchmann did not rule out the possibility of state support to keep FlyBalaton open.

The foundation stone of the Balatonring, a MotoGP racing track near Balaton, was laid in November last year just a few kilometres from FlyBalaton airport.

Balatonring could do for motorcycle racing in Hungary what the famous Hungaroring racing circuit did for Formula One, and plans to host a Hungarian Grand Prix in September.

The past few years have seen dozens of new tourist resort developments around the 77-kilometre-long lake, including yachting clubs and golf courses.

The closure of the FlyBalaton airport in the town of Sarmellek at the south western end of the lake would be a serious blow to the local travel industry.

Feb 0609 1759 GMT

Load-Date: February 7, 2009

End of Document



Ryanair reports 3Q loss as result of high oil price =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 2, 2009 Monday 8:01 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 129 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair reports 3Q loss as result of high oil price = London
Irish budget airline Ryanair announced Monday that
it had made a net loss of more than 100 million euros in the third
quarter of its current financial year.

The airline said it had swung into the red to the tune of 101.5
million euros (130.4 million dollars) in the three months up to the
end of December.

Ryanair, Europe's largest low-cost airline, said it hoped to make
profit for the year as a whole, ranging between 50 and 80 million
euros.

The airline was battered by last year's oil price rise, which saw
its fuel costs soar by 71 per cent in the final three months of 2008.

However, oil prices have since collapsed amid the global economic
downturn.

Feb 0209 0801 GMT

Load-Date: February 3, 2009

Travel tips =



Travel tips =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 27, 2009 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Length: 430 words

Body

DPA x dpa SPECIAL Travel Travel tips =
Ryanair to fly Leipzig-Edinburgh =

Dublin (dpa) - Irish budget airline Ryanair has announced plans to add another route to its schedule connecting Edinburgh in Scotland with an airport near Leipzig in Germany.

The new route will come into operation on March 31 and planes will fly every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, according to Ryanair in Dublin.

Ryanair also plans to expand its Dusseldorf-Edinburgh route with a daily flight between the two airports instead of its present four-times a week schedule.

German railway company extends wireless connectivity

Berlin (dpa) - German rail operator Deutsche Bahn has introduced a wireless internet service on its Hamburg-Frankfurt route.

The route is 1,500 kilometres in length and is serviced by Deutsche Bahn's high-speed ICE locomotives.

Passengers require a WLAN capable laptop, Netbook or mobile phone.

Customers of mobile phone operator T-Mobile or fixed line carrier T-Home can access the train's network instantly, according to Deutsche Bahn.

Other passengers can buy access to the internet for a specified period of time.

A total of 50 trains on the Hamburg-Frankfurt route have been equipped with wireless technology with another 20 due to go online later this year.

Travel tips =

Schoenbrunn Palace reigns supreme as Austrian tourist hotspot

Vienna (dpa) - Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna was the most visited attraction in Austria in 2008, according to the building's management.

Last year, 1.98 million people visited the palace - an increase of 1.1 per cent over the previous 12 months.

However, from autumn 2008 there was a "marked decline" in visitor numbers due to the global financial crisis.

The palace's management earned 42 million dollars in ticket sales most of which went towards restoration projects at Schoenbrunn Palace and at the Hofburg Imperial Palace.

Internet: www.schoenbrunn.at

New website has tourist information on Germany's North sea coast

Hamburg (dpa) - Germany's North Sea coast stretches from the islands of Borkum in the south to Sylt in the north and tourist information on the region is now available in a new website.

The tourist associations from the states of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein have pooled their information on www.deutsche-nordsee.info.

The homepage is in addition to the already existing sites at www.die-nordsee.de and www.nordseetourismus.de.

The websites are aimed at helping visitors to the region orientate themselves.

Travel brochures can also be ordered through the website and accommodation booked.

Jan 2709 0305 GMT

Load-Date: January 27, 2009

End of Document



Frankfurt Hahn airport scraps terminal charges, Ryanair to stay =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 12, 2009 Monday 5:31 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 183 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Aviation Frankfurt Hahn airport scraps terminal charges, Ryanair to stay = Berlin (dpa) - Frankfurt's Hahn airport has cancelled plans to introduce a three-euro departure tax, the finance minister of the German state of Rhineland Palatinate, Hendrik Hering, announced Monday.

As a result, Irish budget airline Ryanair, which had threatened to withdraw from Frankfurt Hahn if the proposal went ahead, has confirmed that its 11 aircraft will remain stationed at the airport.

Ryanair lists 50 destinations departing from Frankfurt on its website, including flights to Italy, Morocco and Slovakia.

The three-euro charge was aimed at improving the financial situation of the indebted airport, in which the states of Rhineland Palatinate and Hessen each have minority stakes.

Fraport AG, the majority stakeholder with holdings of 65 per cent, said Monday discussions were still ongoing about the future of the airport.

Ryanair will announce Tuesday its plans for services at Frankfurt Hahn, situated approximately 120 kilometres from the city of Frankfurt itself.

Jan 1209 1731 GMT

Load-Date: January 13, 2009

Travel tips =



Travel tips =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 30, 2008 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Length: 462 words

Body

DPA x dpa SPECIAL Travel Travel tips =
Amtrak changes USA Rail Pass program =

Hamburg (dpa) - The American rail operator Amtrak has reduced its USA Rail Pass program from 13 to three variations.

The pass allows holders to travel to any of the 500 destinations offered by Amtrak across the United States.

The first pass is valid for 15 days and eight travel segments and costs 389 dollars. The 30-day pass allows holders to travel 12 segments and costs 579 dollars. The 45-day pass covers 18 segments and is available for 749 dollars.

Amtrak says the first journey with a pass must begin within 180 days of purchase.

Internet: www.amtrak.com

Lufthansa expands Africa network =

Frankfurt, Germany (dpa) - German air carrier Lufthansa has added four new destinations in Africa to its schedule.

Thanks to a new code sharing agreement with Ethiopian Airlines, Lufthansa passengers can check their bags through to Kigali in Rwanda, Entebbe in Uganda, the airport at Mount Kilimanjaro and to the island of Zanzibar.

However, Lufthansa says passengers will still have to transfer in Addis Ababa. Together with Lufthansa, Ethiopian flies daily from Frankfurt to Addis.

The code share deal means Lufthansa passengers have greater choice when flying to Kenya and Dar es Salaam - two destinations on which the German carrier already has a cooperation agreement with the airline Swiss.

Travel tips =

Ryanair discontinues Fuerteventura flights =

Dublin (dpa) - Irish budget airline Ryanair is to cease flying to the Canary Island of Fuerteventura from late January 2009.

At present, Ryanair flies 23 times a week to Fuerteventura from nine airports across Europe. The last plane is due to land on the island on January 31.

The Dublin-based carrier says it is dropping the destination from its schedule because of a dispute with a group that promotes tourism on the Canary Islands. Ryanair says the group did not keep to a marketing agreement with the airline.

Michelin awards culinary stars to Hong Kong and Macao =

Paris (dpa) - Gourmets thinking of travelling to the Far East now have two destinations in Hong Kong and Macao to which the Michelin Guide has awarded its culinary stars for the first time.

Michelin has given one restaurant on each island the top award of three stars: the Lung King Heen in the Four Seasons Hotel on Kong Kong and the Robuchon a Galera in the Hotel Lisboa on Macao.

Seven restaurants in Hong Kong and two in Macao were awarded two stars while 14 establishments in the former and four in the latter received one star each.

This is the first time Michelin has published a guide for destinations in China. Tokyo remains the city with the most stars -227. France has the most three-star establishments and is followed by Germany in second place.

Dec 3008 0305 GMT

Load-Date: December 30, 2008



Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi airport =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 17, 2008 Wednesday 10:40 AM EST

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Length: 222 words

Dateline: Luxembourg

Body

DPA x EU Justice Ryanair Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi airport = Luxembourg
Ryanair won a court case against the European
Commission on Wednesday, meaning the low-cost airline will not have
to pay back millions of euros in subsidies that it received from the
Belgian state for establishing a base at Charleroi Airport.

Ryanair obtained favourable terms from the Walloon Region when
negotiating its first continental base at Charleroi, in 2000.

These included a 50 per cent discount on landing charges and
compensation for any loss of profit arising from subsequent hikes in
such charges.

Ryanair later agreed to base between two and four aircraft at
Charleroi for a 15-year period in return for an additional 90 per
cent discount on the airport's 10-euro handling charge per passenger.

The European Union's executive arm had referred the case to EU
judges, arguing that such terms constituted illegal state aid.

But the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg ruled Wednesday that
the deal was part of normal economic activity on the part of
Walloon's regional authorities.

"The mere fact that that activity is carried out in the public
sector does not mean that it can be categorized as the exercise of
public authority," judges said.

The commission has two months to decide whether to appeal the
decision.

Dec 1708 1040 GMT

Load-Date: December 18, 2008

Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi airport =

End of Document



CORRECTION (eca085): Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 17, 2008 Wednesday 10:59 AM EST

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Length: 237 words

Body

DPA x EU Justice Ryanair CORRECTION (eca085): Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi airport

Eds: corrects to Wallonia (sted Walloon) in grafs 2 and 6 =

Luxembourg (dpa) - Ryanair won a court case against the European Commission on Wednesday, meaning the low-cost airline will not have to pay back millions of euros in subsidies that it received from the Belgian state for establishing a base at Charleroi Airport.

Ryanair obtained favourable terms from the Wallonia Region when negotiating its first continental base at Charleroi, in 2000.

These included a 50 per cent discount on landing charges and compensation for any loss of profit arising from subsequent hikes in such charges.

Ryanair later agreed to base between two and four aircraft at Charleroi for a 15-year period in return for an additional 90 per cent discount on the airport's 10-euro handling charge per passenger.

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But the Court of First Instance in Luxembourg ruled Wednesday that the deal was part of normal economic activity on the part of Wallonia regional authorities.

"The mere fact that that activity is carried out in the public sector does not mean that it can be categorized as the exercise of public authority," judges said.

The commission has two months to decide whether to appeal the decision.

Dec 1708 1059 GMT

Load-Date: December 18, 2008

CORRECTION (eca085): Ryanair wins EU court case over Charleroi

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Thousands stranded after London airport protest =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 8, 2008 Monday 1:21 PM EST

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Length: 332 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Britain Demos Aviation ROUNDUP: Thousands stranded after London airport protest = London
Thousands of passengers using budget airlines to and
from London's Stansted airport suffered severe disruption Monday
following an environmental protest which temporarily shut down the
airport's single runway.

Irish carrier Ryanair, the airline most affected by the nine-hour
protest by environmental group Plane Stupid, said it cancelled 56
flights to short-haul destinations in Europe, including Poland,
Germany, France and Italy.

Other airlines decided against cancellations, the airport said.

Police said 57 protestors were arrested after cutting through the
fence with bolt-cutters and chaining themselves together on the runway,
using sheets of security fencing for protection.

The protest hit the first wave of Monday morning flights in an out
of Stansted, which is London's third-biggest airport, situated some 50
kilometres north-east of the capital.

Plane Stupid said the protest was to highlight the "hypocrisy"
between government climate change goals and reality, following the
green light for the construction of a second runway at Stansted.

"We're here because our parents' generation has failed us and its
now down to young people to stop climate change by whatever peaceful
means we have left," a statement posted on the group's website said.

Their protest would prevent the release of thousands of tonnes of
greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, Plane Stupid said.

However, the protest was condemned by the government. A spokesman
for Prime Minister Gordon Brown said: "Of course everybody has has a
right to protest, but people also have a right to travel without
unnecessary hindrance."

ROUNDUP: Thousands stranded after London airport protest =

Ryanair called for an investigation into what it described as an "unacceptable disruption" of thousands of passengers.

An airport spokesman said that while lessons would be learnt from Monday's protests, operators were not prepared to run the airport like a "fortress."

Dec 0808 1321 GMT

Load-Date: December 9, 2008

End of Document



2ND LEAD: London airport reopens after protests

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 8, 2008 Monday 9:01 AM EST

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Length: 282 words

Body

DPA x Britain Demos Aviation 2ND LEAD: London airport reopens after protests
Eds: Updates with reopening of runway =

London (dpa) - London's Stansted airport reopened to traffic Monday after being shut down for several hours by environmental protestors, an airport spokesman said.

The early morning action by some 50 protestors from the group Plane Stupid had closed the airport's single runway, paralyzing all traffic.

A total of 21 flights were cancelled, as long queues formed at check-in desks and many passengers chose to return home or seek hotel accommodation, reports said.

Up to 40 protestors of the group, which managed to break through a tall security fence at around 0300 GMT Monday, were arrested, police said.

Stansted, some 50 kilometres north-east of London, is the British capital's third-biggest airport predominantly used by budget airlines, including Ryanair, for European routes.

Airport operator BAA earlier warned of severe delays and advised passengers to check with airlines before setting out.

Plane Stupid said the protest was to highlight the "hypocrisy" between government climate change goals and reality.

"We're here because our parents' generation has failed us and its now down to young people to stop climate change by whatever peaceful means we have left," a statement posted on the group's website said.

"Being arrested is a terrifying prospect, but not nearly as terrifying as the threat of climate change," one female protestor told the BBC Monday.

The protest is over the government's decision to allow the

2ND LEAD: London airport reopens after protests

expansion of Stansted with a second runway, a plan that has met widespread opposition from residents in nearby towns and villages.
Dec 0808 0901 GMT

Load-Date: December 9, 2008

End of Document



Union at Irish carrier Aer Lingus holds ballot on cost-cutting =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 2, 2008 Tuesday 10:07 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 297 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Union at Irish carrier Aer Lingus holds ballot on cost-cutting =
Dublin

Trade union members at Irish flag carrier Aer
Lingus were due Tuesday to conclude a ballot on cost-cutting
measures, following a take-over offer by rival Ryanair, Irish
national broadcaster RTE reported.

Low-cost airline Ryanair offered on Monday to take over privatized
national carrier with a bid of 1.40 euros (1.78 dollars) per share,
which would value the airline at 748 million euros.

Aer Lingus late Monday rejected the offer.

SIPTU union leader Gerry McCormack said Ryanair's offer would have
"little or no effect on the ballot, except to make members even more
determined than ever to defend decent pay and conditions within the
aviation sector," RTE reported.

Aer Lingus reported a loss of 22.3 million euros for the first six
months of 2008, down from a profit of 2.6 million euros in the same
period of 2007, due to high cost of fuel.

It is currently in dispute with its employees over a cost-cutting
plan.

Ryanair said the deal would be worth 325 million euros in cash to
shareholders, employees and the Irish government, which owns just
over 25 per cent of the airline.

It also said it would double the size of the Aer Lingus fleet from
33 to 66 aircraft over the next five years and create more jobs.

McCormack said that given Ryanair's track record, promises about
the fleet expansion and job creation "would carry little credibility"

Union at Irish carrier Aer Lingus holds ballot on cost-cutting =

and even if they were credible "it still raised the spectre of a monopoly position for an airline not noted for its concern for the public."

Ryanair's previous offer from September 2006 was rejected by the Irish government and Aer Lingus, which called it "ill- conceived, contradictory and anti competitive."

Dec 0208 1007 GMT

Load-Date: December 3, 2008

End of Document



Ryanair launches fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2008 Monday 8:30 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 248 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair launches fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus = Dublin
Irish low-cost airline Ryanair announced a fresh bid to take over 100 per cent of privatized Irish national carrier Aer Lingus on Monday.

Ryanair said in a statement that it was offering 1.40 euros (1.78 dollars) per share in Aer Lingus, which it claimed would be worth 325 million euros in cash to shareholders, employees and the Irish government, which owns just over 25 per cent of the airline.

The offer "will lead to one strong Irish airline group, lower fares for customers, rapid fleet growth and 1,000 new jobs in Aer Lingus."

Ryanair said it would double the size of Aer Lingus' short-haul fleet from 33 to 66 aircraft over the next five years, which would create the jobs.

Ryanair is a major shareholder in Aer Lingus with a 29.8-per-cent stake in the company.

Aer Lingus reported a loss of 22.3 million euros for the first six months of 2008, down from a profit of 2.6 million euros in the same period of 2007, owing to the rise in the cost of fuel, the company said.

The company is currently in dispute with its employees over a cost-cutting plan.

Ryanair's previous offer from September 2006 to take over Aer Lingus was rejected by the European Commission as uncompetitive. It was also resisted by the Irish government, which had just floated the airline at the time.

Ryanair launches fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus =

The 2006 offer is currently under appeal at the European Court of First Instance.

Dec 0108 0830 GMT

Load-Date: December 2, 2008

End of Document



1ST LEAD: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2008 Monday 9:01 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 354 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation 1ST LEAD: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Eds: Add comments from Ryanair chief executive =

Dublin (dpa) - Irish low-cost airline Ryanair announced a fresh bid to take over 100 per cent of privatized Irish national carrier Aer Lingus on Monday.

Ryanair said in a statement that it was offering 1.40 euros (1.78 dollars) per share in Aer Lingus, which would value the airline at 748 million euros.

It claimed the deal would be worth 325 million euros in cash to shareholders, employees and the Irish government, which owns just over 25 per cent of the airline.

The offer "will lead to one strong Irish airline group, lower fares for customers, rapid fleet growth and 1,000 new jobs in Aer Lingus," the statement said.

"It is a sensible strategy for Ireland," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary told US news channel CNBC.

"Ireland has changed," he said. Just as the Irish government said it would merge banks to weather the global financial crisis, "we feel we should put the two airlines together to make a strong national champion," O'Leary said.

He said only a merged airline would be able to compete with the large European carriers like Germany's Lufthansa and French-Dutch airline Air France-KLM.

O'Leary said Ryanair would double the size of Aer Lingus' short-haul fleet from 33 to 66 aircraft over the next five years, which would create the jobs.

1ST LEAD: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Ryanair is a major shareholder in Aer Lingus with a 29.8-per-cent stake in the company.

Aer Lingus reported a loss of 22.3 million euros for the first six months of 2008, down from a profit of 2.6 million euros in the same period of 2007, owing to the rise in the cost of fuel, the company said.

The company is currently in dispute with its employees over a cost-cutting plan.

Ryanair's previous offer from September 2006 to take over Aer Lingus was rejected by the European Commission as uncompetitive. It was also resisted by the Irish government, which had just floated the airline at the time.

The 2006 offer is currently under appeal at the European Court of First Instance.

Dec 0108 0901 GMT

Load-Date: December 2, 2008

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2008 Monday 1:52 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 554 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Eds: Add comments from Ryanair chief executive =

Dublin (dpa) - Irish low-cost airline Ryanair announced a fresh bid to take over 100 per cent of privatized Irish national carrier Aer Lingus on Monday.

Ryanair said in a statement that it was offering 1.40 euros (1.78 dollars) per share in its rival, which would value the airline at 748 million euros.

Aer Lingus said it had noted the offer, but had not yet commented on it.

Ryanair claimed the deal would be worth 325 million euros in cash to shareholders, employees and the Irish government, which owns just over 25 per cent of the airline.

The offer "will lead to one strong Irish airline group, lower fares for customers, rapid fleet growth and 1,000 new jobs in Aer Lingus," the statement said.

"It is a sensible strategy for Ireland," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary told US news channel CNBC.

"Ireland has changed," he said. Just as the Irish government said it would merge banks to weather the global financial crisis, "we feel we should put the two airlines together to make a strong national champion," O'Leary said.

He said only a merged airline would be able to compete with the large merged European carriers like German-Swiss Lufthansa-Swiss and French-Dutch airline Air France-KLM.

"Aer Lingus, as a small, standalone, regional airline has been

ROUNDUP: Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

marginalized and bypassed as most other EU flag carriers consolidate," he said.

O'Leary said Ryanair would double the size of Aer Lingus' short-haul fleet from 33 to 66 aircraft over the next five years, which would create the jobs.

Ryanair is a major shareholder in Aer Lingus with a 29.8-per-cent stake in the company.

Aer Lingus reported a loss of 22.3 million euros for the first six months of 2008, down from a profit of 2.6 million euros in the same period of 2007, owing to the rise in the cost of fuel, the company said.

The company is currently in dispute with its employees over a cost-cutting plan.

Ryanair's previous offer from September 2006 was resisted by the Irish government, which had just floated the airline at the time, and by the airline itself, which called it "ill-conceived, contradictory and anti-competitive."

The proposed deal was rejected by the European Commission as uncompetitive.

Jonathan Todd, spokesman for Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes did not say Monday if Ryanair and the European Commission were in contact about the latest takeover bid.

"As in any merger or takeover case, it is the responsibility of the parties to verify whether or not it falls into the scope of the merger regulation and whether they therefore need to inform the commission," Todd said.

In response to O'Leary's claim earlier Monday that the commission would look more favourably on the current bid as the economic conditions had changed since 2006, Todd said: "Every bid is dealt on a case-by-case basis.

"Merger regulation requires the European Commission to ensure that no concentration would give rise to adverse effects on competition, such as reduced choice for customers or higher prices.

"I am not going to preempt a decision on a deal of which we don't yet have any details."

The 2006 offer is currently under appeal at the European Court of First Instance.

Dec 0108 1352 GMT

Load-Date: December 2, 2008

End of Document

Schedule for Monday, December 1, 1500 GMT =



Schedule for Monday, December 1, 1500 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 1, 2008 Monday 2:57 PM EST

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Length: 863 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1500 Schedule for Monday, December 1, 1500 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(1900-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: +49-30-2852 31472 Fax: 31479
(2000-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: +1-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: +66-2-671-3165 Fax: 3169
Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Poznan, - UN climate talks begin tough two weeks of bargaining
Poland (UN-Ecology/Climate, by 1800)

Washington - President-elect Obama to present
national security team including Senator Clinton
(US-Politics, by 2000)

Bucharest - Centre-right, centre-left neck-and-neck in Romania
vote
(Romania-Elections, by 2100)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

Tokyo - World economic worries weigh on Nikkei
(610 words/Japan-Markets)

Warsaw - Traders block Polish border crossing in cigarette row
(170 words/Poland-Transport/Ukraine/EU)

Seoul - North Korea cuts inter-Korean border traffic further
(390 words/Koreas-Conflicts)

Poynan, - UN climate talks open in shadow of economic crisis
Poland (790 words/UN-Ecology/Climate)

Schedule for Monday, December 1, 1500 GMT =

New Delhi - Maharashtra chief minister offers to resign, deputy
quits
(480 words/India-Terrorism/Politics)

Munich - Germany's crisis-hit BayernLB to axe every fourth job
(310 words/Germany-Business/Banking)

Dublin - Ryanair in fresh takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer
Lingus
(520 words/Ireland-Business/Aviation)

Geneva - UN rights body condemns situation in Congo
(250 words/Congo-Conflicts/UN)

Madrid - European socialists to seek "new direction" in 2009
vote
(290 words/Europe-Politics)

Kabul - Suicide attack kills 8 Afghan civilians, 2 policemen
(340 words/Afghan-Conflicts)

Baghdad - Iraq attacks leave 31 dead and 47 injured
(200 words/Iraq-Conflicts)

Nairobi/ - Calm comes to Nigeria as hospitals struggle to cope
Abuja (280 words/Nigeria-Elections/Conflicts)

Madrid - Spanish commission to probe secret CIA flights
(460 words/Spain-Defence/US)

SPORT MOVED:

FOOTBALL:

Vaduz, - NEWS FEATURE: Pierre Littbarski enjoys tranquil life
Liechtenstein in Liechtenstein. By Ingo Kleinheisterkamp
(406 words/Football-Liechtenstein/Littbarski)

Hamburg - FEATURE: Gloom in Schalke, Hertha on a high in tale
of two cities. By Barry Whelan
(955 words/Football-Germany)

#

Hamburg - Bayern want Timoschuk, ready for Podolski sale
(Football-Germany/Munich)

BIATHLON

Hamburg - PREVIEW: Bjoerndalen seeks immortality - Neuner more
glory. By John Bagratuni
(430 words/Biathlon-WorldCup)

TENNIS

London - PREVIEW: Sampras hoping for "quiet" return to the
London courts (370 words/Tennis-Britain/Sampras)

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - Harris pours in career-high 47 points as Nets snap 14
-year drought. By Paul Levine
(865 words/Basketball-NBA)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS PLANNED:

dpa-SPECIALS PLANNED

Schedule for Monday, December 1, 1500 GMT =

Various - Travel tips
datelines (470 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305 Tuesday)

Stockholm/ - Ringing in the New Year across Europe
Madrid By Andreas Heimann
(550 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Sydney - Aboriginal counterpoint to the Sydney Opera House
By Sid Astbury
(680 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Washington - Famed flag draws crowds as Bush waltzes into history
museum By Anne K Walters
(530 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Bamyan, - Bamyan entices visitors beyond the Buddhas
Afghanistan By Nick Allen
(870 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Quebec City, - North America's only ice hotel, b-r-r-r-ing
Canada warm clothes By Nora Grosse-Harmann
(600 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS MOVED:

Zagreb - NEWS FEATURE: Croatia opens property market amid
fears of sell-out. By Boris Raseta
(474 words/Croatia-Business)

dpa-SPECIALS MOVED

Sydney - Tag team show whale rescues worth the effort
(300 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Science)

Hamburg - Post-heart-attack angst can hurt your heart,
German experts warn. By Ernest Gill
(510 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

- Too many additives will spoil your rating,
warns "food pope"
(700 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Berlin - Interactions among drugs for geriatric afflictions
can be harmful
(235 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Stuttgart - Techniques can help ease irregular heart beat
during pregnancy
(200 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Cologne, - Bad breath can be prevented by brushing the tongue
Germany (120 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Dec 0108 1457 GMT

Load-Date: December 2, 2008



Ryanair plane overruns runway during Rome emergency landing =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 10, 2008 Monday 9:24 AM EST

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Length: 149 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA x Italy Accidents Ryanair plane overruns runway during Rome emergency landing = Rome
A Ryanair Boeing 737 overran a runway Monday at
Rome's Ciampino airport during an emergency landing, Italian
officials said.

None of the 166 passengers on board the flight from
Frankfurt, Germany, were injured, according to the ANSA news agency.

Pilots decided to make the emergency landing following problems
with one of the plane's engines, Ciampino's rescue services chief,
Marco Ghimenti said.

"It appears the landing gear failed to function properly, forcing
the aircraft to overshoot the runway," Ghimenti told television news
channel Sky TG24.

Italian flight authorities were investigating the incident, which
took place shortly before 0700 GMT.

All flight activity was suspended at Ciampino - Rome's second
airport after the main Leonardo Da Vinci hub - following the
incident.

Nov 1008 0924 GMT

Load-Date: November 11, 2008



ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 3, 2008 Monday 1:51 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 435 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved
epa photos, including 401539783, available = London
Leading European budget carrier Ryanair saw its net
profits almost halved in the first six months of its financial year
but its Irish chief executive predicted that the airline would
benefit from a recession in which rivals would go bust.

Announcing a 47-per cent fall in net profits to 169 million pounds
(277 million dollars) between April and September of this year, chief
executive Michael O'Leary said he was confident that profits would
recover on account of the falling oil price and increased
competitiveness in the sector.

The results relate to the period when the oil price peaked at more
than 140 US dollars a barrel. They have since fallen to less than 790
pounds a barrel.

"We have a significant cost advantage over our competitors many of
whom have hedged fuel next year at significantly higher levels than
current market prices," O'Leary said in London Monday.

"This will force competitors to further increase airfares and
widen the price gap between them and Ryanair's lowest fares," he
added.

O'Leary predicted that as many as 5 or 6 European airlines could
go bankrupt between now and Christmas, with just four European
airlines, including Dublin-based Ryanair, surviving.

Eventually just British Airways, Germany's Lufthansa, KLM-Air
France and Ryanair would survive, he forecast.

O'Leary, well-known for his controversial comments, said he
believed that Europe "needed a recession" during which loss-making

ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved

airlines would disappear and the purchasing of aircraft would become cheaper.

He held out the prospect of a new transatlantic low-cost operation within about 2 to 3 years with economy fares as low as 10 pounds but stressed that this would not be operated by Ryanair and would be a completely separate company.

He said Ryanair expected to make losses over the next six months but would continue to dip fares by between 15 and 20 per cent.

Figures showed that the number of passengers using Ryanair grew by 19 per cent to 32 million between April and September, compared to the same period in 2007.

Despite the economic slowdown, the airline expected passenger figures to rise by a further 9 per cent over the winter months.

O'Leary said Ryanair had completed a "remarkable performance" over the last few months in "very difficult trading conditions."

"We need a recession. We have had 10 years of growth. A recession gets rid of crappy loss-making airlines and it means we can buy aircraft more cheaply," said O'Leary.

Nov 0308 1351 GMT

Notes

epa photos, including 401539783, available =

Load-Date: November 4, 2008

End of Document



CORRECTION (eca119): ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 3, 2008 Monday 2:50 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 443 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation CORRECTION (eca119): ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved Corrects per barrel oil price in graf 3, 70 dollars sted 790 pounds = London

Leading European budget carrier Ryanair saw its net profits almost halved in the first six months of its financial year but its Irish chief executive predicted that the airline would benefit from a recession in which rivals would go bust.

Announcing a 47-per cent fall in net profits to 169 million pounds (277 million dollars) between April and September of this year, chief executive Michael O'Leary said he was confident that profits would recover on account of the falling oil price and increased competitiveness in the sector.

The results relate to the period when the oil price peaked at more than 140 US dollars a barrel. They have since fallen to less than 70 dollars a barrel.

"We have a significant cost advantage over our competitors many of whom have hedged fuel next year at significantly higher levels than current market prices," O'Leary said in London Monday.

"This will force competitors to further increase airfares and widen the price gap between them and Ryanair's lowest fares," he added.

O'Leary predicted that as many as 5 or 6 European airlines could go bankrupt between now and Christmas, with just four European airlines, including Dublin-based Ryanair, surviving.

Eventually just British Airways, Germany's Lufthansa, KLM-Air France and Ryanair would survive, he forecast.

CORRECTION (eca119): ROUNDUP: Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits halved

O'Leary, well-known for his controversial comments, said he believed that Europe "needed a recession" during which loss-making airlines would disappear and the purchasing of aircraft would become cheaper.

He held out the prospect of a new transatlantic low-cost operation within about 2 to 3 years with economy fares as low as 10 pounds but stressed that this would not be operated by Ryanair and would be a completely separate company.

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Despite the economic slowdown, the airline expected passenger figures to rise by a further 9 per cent over the winter months.

O'Leary said Ryanair had completed a "remarkable performance" over the last few months in "very difficult trading conditions."

"We need a recession. We have had 10 years of growth. A recession gets rid of crappy loss-making airlines and it means we can buy aircraft more cheaply," said O'Leary.

Nov 0308 1450 GMT

Notes

Corrects per barrel oil price in graf 3, 70 dollars sted 790 pounds =

Load-Date: November 4, 2008

End of Document

Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =



Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
November 3, 2008 Monday 3:18 PM EST

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Length: 1081 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1500 Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(1900-2000 GMT) Berlin Tel: 0049-30-2852 31472 Fax: 31479
(2000-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 1270
(Mon-Fri 0200-1400 GMT/ Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-671-3165 Fax: 3169
Sat 0200-1100 Sun 0200-1000 GMT)

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Baghdad - 11 killed, more than 20 injured in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts/1600)

Chicago/ - Candidates make final push in US elections
Washington (US-Elections/after 2000)

Munich - Thousands of German engineering workers walk off jobs
(Germany-Labour/1600)

Brussels - Eurozone economic ministers discuss global slowdown
(EU-Economy-Euro/after 2000)

Berlin - German banks seek government help
(Germany-Business/Banking/1600)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

Islamabad - Pakistan asks head of US Command to halt air strikes
(480 words/Pakistan-Conflicts)

Kabul - Gunmen abduct French aid worker in Kabul
(650 words/Afghan-Conflicts/France)

London - Ryanair hopes to benefit from recession as profits

Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =

halved (450 words/Britain-Business-Aviation)

- Wiesbaden, Germany - German Social Democrats split over Hesse takeover
(350 words/Germany-Politics0)
- Cairo - Four killed, three missing in Egypt-Gaza tunnel collapse (170 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Egypt)
- Los Angeles - Musical outsells Porno, horror at US box offices
(237 words/US-Cinema)
- Sydney - Australian stocks rise 5 per cent
(96 words/Australia-Markets)
- Hong Kong - Hong Kong shares up 2.6 per cent as China stocks rally (150 words/HongKong-Markets)
- New Delhi - Indian shares up more than 5 per cent after rate cut
(146 words/India-Markets)
- Brussels - EU recession risks "real", Almunia says
(670 words/EU-Economy)
- Beijing - Landslide death toll rises to 26 in south-west China
(306 words/China-Weather)

SPORT MOVED:

- MOTORSPORT
- Hamburg - Media hails world champion Hamilton and Brazil race suspense. By John Bagratuni
(570 words/Motorsport-F1/Reax)
- Former drivers hail Hamilton's success.
By George Burns
(400 words/Motorsport-F1/Reax/Hamilton)
- BASKETBALL
- Los Angeles - Thunder tops T-Wolves for first-ever home win in Oklahoma City. By Paul Levine
(740 words/Basketball-NBA)
- FOOTBALL
- Hamburg - PREVIEW: England's fab four seek knockout stages - with a little help. By John Bagratuni
(820 words/Football-Champions)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS PLANNED:

- Magdeburg, Germany - FEATURE: Success no breeze for Germany's first woman wind-energy prof. By Sabrina Gorges
(527 words/Germany-Science/Energy/after 0205 Tuesday)
- Yangon/Singapore - FEATURE: Myanmar's Irrawaddy delta recovering 6 months after Nargis, By Christiane Oelrich
(500 words/Myanmar-Disaster/after 0205 Tuesday)

dpa-SPECIALS PLANNED

Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =

Various - Travel tips
datelines (525 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

New York - "Spin the night away" on a revolving bed in a New
York museum (250 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Fort - No snow, no problem for Fort Lauderdale's
Lauderdale, Christmas boat parade. By Verena Wolff
Florida (745 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Dortmund, - Black gold and moors - Germany's Nordhorn region
Germany By Bernd F. Meier
(510 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Santa Cruz, - Isla Bonita's hiking trails offer
de La Palma, diverse experience. By Manuel Meyer
Spain (850 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

Vienna - Wilden Kaiser's slopes provide skiing fun for the
whole family. By Carina Frey
(850 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Travel/after 0305)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS MOVED:

Rome - NEWS FEATURE: Vatican unveils exhibition on
controversial WWII pope. By Peter Meyer
(640 words/Vatican-Religion)

Madrid - FEATURE: Queen's outburst reignites debate about
monarchy in Spain. By Sinikka Tarvainen
(800 words/Spain-Royalty)

Washington - FEATURE: Operating systems move to the Web.
By Jay Dougherty
(1,200 words/US-Computers)

Hong Kong - FEATURE: Maternity tourist boom brings midwife crisis
to Hong Kong. By Hazel Parry
(925 words/HongKong-Health/China)

Taipei - BACKGROUND: Chronology of Taiwan-China relations
(725 words/Taiwan-Diplomacy/China)

- BACKGROUND: Details of pacts
to be signed during Taiwan-China talks
(300 words/Taiwan-Diplomacy/China)

COVERAGE OF US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Eds: Elections are Tuesday

Chicago - FEATURE: Chicagoans take to cell phones
in bid to help local Obama. By Anne K Walters
(600 words/US-Elections)

Washington - PREVIEW: Now it's up to voters
in historic US elections. By Chris Cermak
(850 words/US-Elections)

dpa-SPECIALS MOVED

Amsterdam - Dutch car accident victim helps

Schedule for Monday, November 3, 1500 GMT =

support stocking wearers. By Rachel Levy
(520 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Kassel,
Germany - Sex trumps sports as a sleeping aid. By Chris Melzer
(570 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Hamburg - Sleep loss produces false memories,
caffeine straightens them out. By Ernest Gill
(580 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

- Virus causes irregular heartbeat,
German researchers find. By Ernest Gill
(460 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Cologne,
Germany - Parents should monitor their teens' mood swings
(265 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Berlin - People with emotional problems should seek help
(180 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Health)

Nov 0308 1518 GMT

Load-Date: November 4, 2008

End of Document



Ryanair hit by half-yearly losses as result of high oil price =

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 3, 2008 Monday 7:27 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 174 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair hit by half-yearly losses as result of high oil price =
London

Leading budget airline Ryanair said Monday the steep rise in the oil price had led to a 47-per-cent fall in net profits in the six months to the end of September.

The Irish carrier said net profits between April and September stood at 169 million pounds (277 million dollars).

Chief executive Michael O'Leary said he was confident the profits would recover if the oil price, currently at 80 US dollars a barrel, continued to fall.

"We have a significant cost advantage over our competitors many of whom have hedged fuel next year at significantly higher levels than current market prices," O'Leary said Monday.

"This will force competitors to further increase airfares and widen the price gap between them and Ryanair's lowest fares," he added.

The airline, which has already announced a cut in the flight schedule, also said it planned to offer flights to the US for 8 pounds by buying planes from struggling rivals.

Nov 0308 0727 GMT

Load-Date: November 4, 2008



Passengers petition RyanAir over Italy-bound plane

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 16, 2008 Thursday 4:16 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 172 words

Dateline: Luebeck, Germany

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Transport Passengers petition RyanAir over Italy-bound plane Luebeck, Germany
In a fresh case of spooked airline
passengers petitioning an airline to step up safety, Ryanair faced a
customer revolt this week on an Italy-bound flight, a German airport
said Thursday.

Passengers demanded Ryanair arrange a full technical check of the
Boeing 737 which was grounded before a flight Wednesday from Luebeck,
Germany to Pisa, Italy.

Luebeck Airport said a technician had already been flying to the
airport with a spare part when some of the 176 passengers began
rounding up signatures.

When the plane did take off nine hours late at 10.10 pm, 20 of the
passengers had cancelled the trip.

An airport spokeswoman said Ryanair did not allow contract
engineers to work on the plane and had no engineers at Luebeck. It
insisted on flying in its own technician from Stockholm, Sweden to do
the repair.

She said the flight, scheduled to depart at 12.45 pm, had been
delayed by a defect in the jet's right wing.

Oct 1608 1616 GMT

Load-Date: October 18, 2008



Ryanair plane makes emergency landing at Dublin airport

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 11, 2008 Thursday 12:59 PM EST

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Length: 148 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA x Ireland Aviation Ryanair plane makes emergency landing at Dublin airport Dublin/London
A Ryanair aircraft was Thursday forced to
make an emergency landing minutes after take-off from Dublin airport
in Ireland, the budget airline said.

A spokesman said the back of the plane struck the runway as it
took off and the pilot returned to the airport as a precaution. He
described the occurrence as a "tail-strike" which was "quite common."

"As a precautionary measure the aircraft returned with oxygen
masks deployed and landed safely in Dublin," he said.

All 148 passengers disembarked normally and the flight later took
off for London-Stansted airport. No-one was injured.

The incident comes less than a month after a Ryanair Boeing en
route from Britain to Girona, northern Spain, made an emergency
landing at Limoges airport in France after loss of cabin pressure.

Sep 1108 1259 GMT

Load-Date: September 12, 2008

End of Document



FEATURE: Sky-high fuel prices shake up Asia's private airlines

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 25, 2008 Monday 6:01 AM EST

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Length: 761 words

Byline: Julia Yeow and Sukino Hsumarto, dpa

Dateline: Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur

Body

DPA x Asia Transport Aviation Indonesia Malaysia FEATURE: Sky-high fuel prices shake up Asia's private airlines Julia Yeow and Sukino Hsumarto, dpa Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur
With oil prices above 100 dollars a barrel this year, airlines with the most fuel-efficient fleets have an obvious advantage.

Asia's established national carriers have the edge over their private competitors in terms of strong shareholders - mostly Asian governments - and good balance sheets, with easy access to money to spend on the newest, fuel-efficient aircraft. But they are not the only ones keeping Boeing and Airbus busy this year.

AirAsia, South-East Asia's largest no-frills airline, is currently Airbus's biggest customer for the fuel-efficient A320. AirAsia has placed an order for 175 A320s, 50 of which will be operational by 2013, unless the company flies into serious financial problems before then.

In 2007, AirAsia reported a pretax profit of 79 million dollars on revenue of 458 million dollars. Its mid-year performance in 2008 is expected to be less rosy, but industry experts commend the company for investing in fuel efficiency at a time of record-high oil prices.

"The people who suffer when oil prices spike like this are the ones with old aircraft," said Andrew Herdman, director general of the Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA). "The beneficiaries are airlines that have got young fleets with highly fuel-efficient modern aircraft."

That works for both national carriers and budget airlines.

In Europe, the no-frills survivors this year have been Ryanair and Easy Jet. In Asia, the seeming success stories are Malaysia's AirAsia, Singapore's Tiger and maybe Indonesia's Lion Air, according

FEATURE: Sky-high fuel prices shake up Asia's private airlines

to Herdman.

Budget carrier Tiger Airways reported a net profit of 27 million dollars in the fiscal year that ended in March despite the soaring fuel costs.

It was the first profitable year since Tiger launched in 2004.

There have already been some no-frills losers this year.

Hong Kong's Oasis, which operated two fairly old Boeing 747s between the former British colony and London, went into voluntary liquidation on April 9, laying off 700 employees and leaving 30,000 passengers holding tickets valued at 38.5 million US dollars.

The airline blamed its demise on high oil prices and a failure to purchase the proper aircraft.

Thailand's One-Two-Go and Indonesia's Adam Air both shut down operations this year, although the reason may have had as much to do with their poor safety records as high fuel costs.

The Philippine's budget carrier Cebu Pacific Inc suffered a small loss of 348,000 dollars in the first half of 2008, but the airline is in the midst of upgrading its fleet with more economic Airbus A320s and A319s.

Indonesia, a vast archipelago nation, has seen its air traffic grow an average of 20 per cent during the past five years, driven by by strong domestic demand and the deregulation of the sector that has given birth to an estimated 50 airlines.

Unfortunately, aviation safety standards have not kept up with the proliferation of airlines.

Numerous fatal accidents, such as the Adam Air New Year's Day 2007 crash in the sea off the western coast of Sulawesi, which killed all 102 people on board, followed by a Garuda Indonesia jetliner three months later in central Java city of Yogyakarta that killed at least 21 people - have tarnished Indonesia's safety record.

Safety concerns prompted the European Union to ban all Indonesian airlines from operating in its territory.

One positive impact of the ban was the enforcement of stricter requirements on the country's plethora of airlines.

In addition to closing down Adam Air, once one of Indonesia's fastest-growing budget airlines, the transport ministry this year also grounded nine other airlines. It revoked licenses of four carriers and suspended five others for failing to improve their safety records. Indonesia is now down to 20 scheduled airlines.

Lion Air, the country's largest private domestic carrier, is buying 178 fuel-efficient Boeing 737-900ER, of which 12 have already been delivered. The firm expresses confidence in both the domestic and international market despite the sky-high fuel prices.

"There is a very positive outlook for airlines with fuel-efficient modern fleets," said Hasyim Arsal al-Habsi, Lion Air's spokesman.

Prospects are particularly good in Indonesia, where air-safety

FEATURE: Sky-high fuel prices shake up Asia's private airlines

fears pale in comparison to the mayhem on the roads and frequent accidents at sea.

"Indonesia is a vast archipelago nation, and air transportation is the most feasible facility," Aarsal said.

Aug 2508 0601 GMT

Load-Date: August 26, 2008

End of Document



ROUNDUP: British airport operator faces sale of two London airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 20, 2008 Wednesday 1:31 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 478 words

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Transport Aviation ROUNDUP: British airport operator faces sale of two London airports updates, adds German material

London/Essen (dpa) - The British airport company BAA faces having to sell two of its three London airports, most likely Gatwick and Stansted, the British Competition Commission said Wednesday, rekindling the interest by German Hochtief company to buy Gatwick.

The commission, which monitors competition standards, said in a preliminary report due to be confirmed in April, that the airport operator should sell two of either Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted airports.

The watchdog also recommended that the BAA give up one of its two Scottish airports, Edinburgh or Glasgow. In total, BAA runs seven British airports.

The final decision over the future of the airports would be taken in April, said the commission, which had found that the single ownership of Britain's leading airports was having "adverse consequences" on air traffic for passengers and airlines.

Reacting to the report, BAA chief Colin Matthews said the company would not sell Heathrow, yet he conceded the watchdog's findings on "poor service" and "frustration" for passengers.

In Germany, the Essen-based Hochtief company said it continued to have a "great interest" in Gatwick, the UK's second largest airport. However, it remained unclear at this time when and under which conditions the company would get involved, a spokeswoman said.

In principle, however, the company was interested also in other airports should they become available, she said.

"We will look at all of them", she said, adding further steps were expected in the autumn.

ROUNDUP: British airport operator faces sale of two London airports

BAA, which belongs to the Spanish Grupo Ferrovial, has come under pressure in recent years over delays and service standards. The report especially blamed the company for slow responses to passenger concerns and the failure to expand the airports' capacities.

Besides the German company Hochtief, the British airport operator Manchester Airport Group expressed an interest for one of the three London hubs, which process 90 per cent of all air traffic into London.

The group, which operates airports in Manchester, Bournemouth, East Midlands and Humberside, said it was considering "one or more" BAA airports.

Hochtief had said in the past it wanted to expand its operations and concessions business which also includes airports. The company is currently considering stakes in the airports of Riga, St Petersburg and possibly also Prague.

The British Competition Commission does not explicitly recommend the sale of Gatwick and Stansted, but BAA has made clear it was opposed to selling Heathrow.

The company also accused the watchdog of mistakes in their judgement and said an airport sale would be counterproductive.

Airlines including Ryanair, Virgin Atlantic Airways and Easyjet welcomed the commission's findings.

Aug 2008 1331 GMT

Notes

updates, adds German material

Load-Date: August 21, 2008

End of Document



EU probes Ryanair booking cancellations

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 20, 2008 Wednesday 2:39 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 165 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Aviation Ryanair EU probes Ryanair booking cancellations Brussels
The European Commission is investigating whether
Ryanair's decision to cancel thousands of tickets bought through
third-party websites breaches EU rules on air passenger rights.

"I can confirm that we have sent a letter" asking Ryanair to
provide additional information, Fabio Pirodda, the EU's transport
commission spokesman, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa Wednesday.

The Irish low-cost carrier recently announced that all bookings
made on non-Ryanair websites after August 11 would not be honoured,
and that passengers would be refunded.

Ryanair argues that so-called "screenscraping" price comparison
websites breach its copyright rules, levy unjustified handling
charges or do not provide passengers with up to date flight
information.

The EU executive is now following up on complaints from consumer
groups and wants to find out whether Ryanair is violating the bloc's
rules.

Aug 2008 1439 GMT

Load-Date: August 21, 2008



NEWS FEATURE: Cheap flights boom hits turbulence over fuel costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 29, 2008 3:15 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 545 words

Byline: Anna Tomforde, dpa

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Transport Aviation NEWS FEATURE: Cheap flights boom hits turbulence over fuel costs
Anna Tomforde, dpa Dublin/London
Ryanair, the low-cost airline which revolutionized travel in Europe for millions over the past 15 years, now appears to be signalling the end of the cheap flight boom as rising fuel prices force radical changes in the airline industry.

A profit warning from the Irish no-frills carrier, which runs its main operations from London-Stansted airport, sent airline stocks into a tailspin Monday, as the group's flamboyant chief executive, Michael O'Leary, predicted losses of up to 60 million euros (95 million dollars) in the fiscal year of 2008/2009.

By revealing a 85-per cent plunge in profits in the first quarter of the current financial year the usually bullish O'Leary sent shockwaves through an industry which is struggling to absorb the soaring price of oil.

With rises in air fares now expected across the board, from low-cost to scheduled airlines, tourism organizers have tried to lure customers by saying that this summer presents their "last chance" for a break at affordable fares.

In Britain, at least, polls have shown that a third of the population will rise to the bait of a "last fling" summer holiday abroad.

But at the same time, a record number of Britons, plagued by rising fuel, energy and food prices, have opted for a destination closer to home.

Ryanair's profit update followed similar downbeat figures from rival Easyjet which last week warned of a potential 42-per cent drop

NEWS FEATURE: Cheap flights boom hits turbulence over fuel costs

in annual pre-tax profits and cuts in capacity growth.

Both budget airlines have announced plans to reduce flights capacity by up to 15 per cent over the winter months.

Their blue chip counterpart, British Airways, had already set the scene earlier by announcing capacity cuts on winter routes of between 3 and 5 per cent accompanied by "absolutely inevitable" fare hikes of 4 per cent or more for passengers.

After celebrating record profits last year, BA has given a bleak outlook for its current financial year, saying that a total fuel bill of more than 3 billion pounds threatened to wipe out last year's profits.

But while mainstream airlines such as BA, Lufthansa and Air France have attempted to compensate for the extra costs by introducing fuel charges, Ryanair has insisted that it will resist charging a fuel levy and beat off competition with "aggressive pricing."

"We will continue to absorb higher oil costs, even if it means short-term losses, while we continue to deliver Europe's guaranteed lowest fares to our 58 million passengers," O'Leary said.

But as the fuel crisis bites, analysts believe that rising fares and a reduction in flights by the end of the summer will force some well-known names out of business.

"Low fares and high growth are giving way to higher fares and lower growth. This sits uneasily with the low-cost airline model's traditional emphasis on stimulating demand through low prices," said Douglas McNeill, a transport analyst at a leading London stockbroker firm.

In future, no-frills passengers would have to be prepared to "pay more for less," said aviation analyst Doug McVitie. The answer to that question would define "the shape of global aviation for the next generation." dpa at sc

290205 GMT Jul 08

Load-Date: July 29, 2008

End of Document



Ryanair sees up to 60 million euros loss in 2008/2009

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 28, 2008 Monday 6:55 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 180 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Transport Aviation Ryanair sees up to 60 million euros loss in 2008/2009 Dublin
Ireland's low-fare airline Ryanair warned Monday
that it is bracing for red-ink of up to 60 million euros (95 million
dollars) in the fiscal 2008/2009 year amid surging fuel costs.

At best, the airline said in presenting first-quarter figures, the
company could show break-even results.

Ryanair said that in the first quarter starting April 1, it
managed a profit of 21 million euros, plunging 85 per cent from the
same quarter a year earlier.

Aviation fuel in the quarter cost the airline 367 million euros,
surging 93 per cent from the same quarter last year. Ryanair said
fuel now accounts for half of the airline's expenses, compared with
36 per cent a year ago.

Passenger numbers in the April-June quarter gained by 19 per cent
to 15 million travellers, while revenues rose 12 per cent to 777
million euros.

The company said it is basing its earnings projections on an
average oil price of 130 dollars per barrel and on a 5 per cent
decline in ticket prices.

Jul 2808 0655 GMT

Load-Date: July 29, 2008



Italian minister "gives the finger" to passengers in Ryanair ad

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 25, 2008 Friday 1:55 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 403 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA POLITICS Italy Politics Italian minister "gives the finger" to passengers in Ryanair ad Rome Italian Reform Minister Umberto Bossi's giving the finger to Italy's national anthem led to an outcry earlier this week, but on Friday it was his supporters who were outraged by Ryanair's running of an advertisement showing the minister making the gesture.

"It is offensive and in bad taste," said Italian parliamentarian, Massimo Polledri, a member of the Bossi-led Northern League party.

Polledri was referring to a photograph of Bossi, middle-finger raised in the insulting gesture, posted under the phrase "Minister Bossi to Italian passengers," on the Italian website of budget airline, Ryanair.

The photograph accompanies an advertisement in which Ryanair offers flights for 10 euros (15 dollars) while slamming the government's supporting for Italy's state-controlled airline, Alitalia.

"The (Italian) government supports the high fares of Alitalia, the frequent strikes at Alitalia and can't care less about the Italian passengers," the ad says.

"It would be better for Ryanair to wipe all this, and in particular its connecting of such false statements with the image of our leader," said Mario Borghezio, a European Parliament member for the Northern League.

"We are ready to launch a boycott against the company (Ryanair)," Borghezio was quoted as saying, by the ANSA news agency.

The photograph of Bossi, whose party wants devolution of powers to Italy's regions, was taken last Sunday at a political conference in which he hit out at a line in the national anthem which appears to

Italian minister "gives the finger" to passengers in Ryanair ad

say Italy is the slave to Rome.

"Never again slaves to Rome," the minister said, raising his middle finger.

The gesture triggered condemnation from opposition politicians, some of whom asked Bossi to resign, but also embarrassment from other members of the conservative coalition that makes up Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government.

Berlusconi said later he had met with Bossi to discuss the matter and that it had been "resolved."

Like Berlusconi, Bossi strongly opposed a plan earlier this year by the previous centre-left government to sell the financially-troubled Alitalia to French-Dutch airline Air France-KLM. Air France-KLM subsequently withdrew its bid.

Ryanair and other airlines allege that the Italian state's support for Alitalia amounts to unfair competition in contravention of European Union laws.

Jul 2508 1355 GMT

Load-Date: July 26, 2008

End of Document



Easyjet says rising fuel costs to hit profits and capacity

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 24, 2008 Thursday 11:50 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 186 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Easyjet says rising fuel costs to hit profits and capacity London British budget airline Easyjet warned Thursday that rising fuel costs would result in significantly lower annual profits which it hoped to offset by cutting flights over the winter months.

Easyjet said its annual fuel costs have increased by about 185 million pounds (370 million dollars), as analysts predicted that the company's full-year earnings would be less than expected.

It predicted that annual profits could be up to 42 per cent lower than in the previous financial year.

That would leave the airline with pretax profits of around 120 million pounds for the year to the end of September, compared with 191 million for the last year.

While Easyjet would attempt to offset more than 50 per cent of the additional fuel costs through revenues growth and cost savings, there would be a 12-per cent reduction in capacity from London's Stansted airport this winter.

Earlier this month, rival airline Ryanair said it would cut about 250 flights from Stansted this winter in an attempt to offset fuel costs.

Jul 2408 1150 GMT

Load-Date: July 25, 2008



Brussels: Danish report confirms airline website problems

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 3, 2008 Thursday 12:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 320 words

Dateline: Brussels/Copenhagen

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Aviation Denmark Brussels: Danish report confirms airline website problems
Brussels/Copenhagen

Airlines such as Ryanair, Air Berlin
and Aer Lingus are still not giving customers full information on
their online ticket offers, the European Union's executive said
Thursday in the wake of a Danish consumer report.

"Europe's consumers are being let down by the airline industry.
There are serious and persistent problems with ticket sales
throughout the airline industry as a whole," EU Consumer Affairs
Commissioner Meglena Kuneva said in a statement.

Her comments followed a report from the Danish consumer ombudsman
in which six airline websites and one ticketing website were
highlighted as giving consumers either misleading price information
or unfair contract terms.

"When the consumer ombudsman recently checked the information
and/or procedures used, the following sites still contained incorrect
information and/or made use of misleading booking
procedures: Ryanair, Air Berlin, Air Baltic, SkyEurope, Aer Lingus,
Brussels Airlines and Seat24," the ombudsman's website announced.

However, five other airlines and sales websites have already
changed their sites to present accurate information, while one
airline has stopped flying to Denmark, the website said.

Ryanair and Air Berlin reject the claim that their websites are
misleading, European Commission spokeswoman Helen Kearns said.

The Danish site warns consumers to make sure that the first price
they see includes all taxes and fees, and that the site does not
feature pre-ticked boxes which they have to un-tick to avoid buying
extra services such as travel insurance.

Brussels: Danish report confirms airline website problems

The announcement comes as part of an EU-wide sweep of airline websites aimed at cracking down on misleading and unfair information. Few other member states have yet published the names of suspects, as this would not be compatible with their legal systems.

Jul 0308 1230 GMT

Load-Date: July 4, 2008

End of Document



Travel tips

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 10, 2008 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Length: 368 words

Body

DPA x dpa SPECIAL Travel Travel tips
Ireland hosts over 100 festivals this summer =

Dublin (dpa) - More than 100 arts festivals focusing on storytelling, organ playing, carillon festivals, travel writing, sculpture and other themes will be held from June to September across Ireland this summer, the Arts Council recently announced in Dublin.

The burst in creativity is due in part to an investment of 5 million euro (8 million dollars) by the Arts Council during that period.

Chairwoman Olive Braiden said: "Festivals are the heart and soul of the Irish summer and the Arts Council is very proud of its role in funding these. They play a central part in our lives, a vital role in our economy and are also a key attraction for our tourists."

For a list of festivals, see:
<http://www.artscouncil.ie/Publications/ArtsCouncilFestivalCalendar2008.doc>

Ryanair expands service to north Germany

London (dpa) - No frills airline Ryanair is launching four new routes from the north German city of Bremen to Marrakech, Fuerteventura, Tenerife and Gothenburg in October.

From October 28, Ryanair will fly every Tuesday to Tenerife and Marrakech on Saturdays.

Ryanair begins its service to Gothenburg in Sweden a day later and will fly every Wednesday and Sunday.

The Fuerteventura service begins 30 October and will fly every Thursday and Saturday.

Travel tips

US state of Georgia offers visitors discounts =

Bielefeld (dpa) - The U.S. state of Georgia has a special online offer for visitors with discounts to over 80 attractions.

The Georgia Dream Pass came into operation last year and was initially aimed at golfers but the scheme has now been expanded.

A temporary pass can be downloaded for print out which is then exchanged for a permanent pass at any of the attractions taking part.

Internet: www.gadreampass.org

Major fireworks display in France =

Frankfurt (dpa) - The castle at Chantilly outside Paris is hosting a Night of Fire from June 12 to 14 as part of an international firework competition.

"Les Nuits des Feu" is a biannual event which this year will see 11 fireworks displays designed by some of the top names in pyrotechnics, according to the French tourist office in Frankfurt.
Jun 1008 0305 GMT

Load-Date: June 10, 2008

End of Document



European airlines feeling the pinch, passenger figures show

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 3, 2008 Tuesday 9:51 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 369 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe Business Aviation European airlines feeling the pinch, passenger figures show Brussels
More and more European flights are departing with empty seats as the continent's major airlines continue to feel the pinch of the economic slowdown, the credit crunch and rising fuel prices, figures out Tuesday show.

According to the latest data from the Association of European Airlines (AEA), airline traffic in April was up just 1 per cent from the same month last year. More significantly, the carriers' load factor was down by an "alarming" 2.7 points over the same period.

The drop translates into a load factor of 74.8 per cent, meaning that the average European flight departs with a quarter of its seats empty.

"Clearly, economic conditions are taking their toll in the marketplace as the global slowdown and the credit crunch impact business confidence and travel volumes, while resurgent inflation is severely affecting discretionary income," the AEA said in a statement.

The AEA report showed that the worst affected routes in April, in terms of traffic, were the domestic and North Atlantic routes.

The previously booming cross-border European market, by contrast, registered a modest growth of just 1.9 per cent while traffic towards North Africa and the Middle East was up 4.5 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

In the period between January to April 2008, overall passenger rates were up 2.6 per cent when compared to the same period last year. But the key passenger load factor was down by an aggregate 1.4 points to 73.5 per cent.

European airlines feeling the pinch, passenger figures show

Looking at the performance of individual airlines, beleaguered Alitalia suffered the biggest drop in terms of passengers (-25.9 per cent when compared to April 2007), with its passenger load factor falling by 9.7 points.

The association, which groups 33 major European carriers - from Air France to Virgin Atlantic Airways - noted that many airlines were increasing ticket prices to mitigate soaring fuel costs and planned to make "substantial capacity cutbacks" after the summer.

Irish budget airline Ryanair, which is not a member of the AEA, also warned Tuesday that it would have to raise ticket prices and ground part of its fleet in the coming months.

Jun 0308 0951 GMT

Load-Date: June 4, 2008

End of Document



Ryanair reports 2008 profit rise despite high fuel costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 3, 2008 Tuesday 7:19 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 194 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Business Aviation Ryanair reports 2008 profit rise despite high fuel costs London
Budget airline Ryanair Tuesday reported annual pre-tax profits of 419 million pounds (820 million dollars) but warned that ticket prices would have to rise to meet soaring fuel costs and charges.

The Irish budget carrier said it would not impose a fuel surcharge. But chief executive Michael O'Leary said the airline would ground up to 10 per cent of its fleet this winter to combat rising airport charges.

The pre-tax profits up to the end of March 2008 represent a rise of 17 per cent over the previous year.

O'Leary said the rising oil price had been mitigated through bulk buying at cheaper prices. But if fuel costs remained high, ticket prices would have to rise by about 5 per cent.

Results for 2008-09 would depend entirely on fuel costs, but if they stayed at present levels, Ryanair would probably only break even in 2009, he predicted.

Ryanair carried 50.9 million passengers during the past year, 20 per cent more than the previous year.

"No airline is better placed in Europe than Ryanair to trade through this downturn," O'Leary said.

Jun 0308 0719 GMT

Load-Date: June 4, 2008

Ryanair reports 2008 profit rise despite high fuel costs

End of Document



EU airlines given one year to make websites honest

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 8, 2008 Thursday 2:26 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 475 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Transport Airlines EU airlines given one year to make websites honest Brussels
The European Union's top consumer-affairs official on Thursday gave EU airlines one year to make their websites honest after a study revealed "appalling" levels of deceptive offers and a weaker than expected ability to change them.

The airlines involved include low-cost giant Ryanair and Austria's national carrier, Austrian, as well as around 70 other airlines and travel companies, officials in Brussels said.

"I intend to wrap this sweep investigation up by May 2009. ... Until I see the market really clean from the point of view of consumers, I will not stop my efforts," EU Consumer Protection Commissioner Meglena Kuneva told journalists.

"If we need to have more measures, I won't hesitate to go further," sanctioning offenders as necessary, she warned.

At the very least, the airlines should provide clear information on the final price which customers will be charged for their ticket and the availability of the price band in question, and make sure that customers are not automatically registered for costly "optional" services, Kuneva said.

In September, consumer officials in 15 EU member states and Norway analyzed the websites of airlines and ticketing agencies in their countries to see whether they presented users with an accurate account of what their tickets would cost.

Kuneva said she was "frankly appalled" by the result, which revealed that 137 of the 386 sites checked broke EU consumer laws by either advertising the ticket at a price which was below the final one, failing to provide appropriate contract information or only applying the advertised low price to a tiny number of seats.

EU airlines given one year to make websites honest

Since then, national enforcement agencies have forced around half of the websites to follow the rules or shut down, Kuneva said.

But only 12 per cent of the problems associated with companies not based in the country where the flawed websites were discovered have been resolved, she said.

"We need to track down and follow the about 70 remaining cases which we detected as bad and false. They need to be either amended or shut down - and we have the right to do so," she said.

Most of the countries which took part in the September sweep have not disclosed the names of the companies involved, saying that they must first finish their own legal proceedings.

But Norway and Sweden have both published the names of the companies their sweep caught out.

Sweden's sweep found flaws in the websites of Irish giant Ryanair and local carriers Gotlandsflyg and Ryanair. Norway's sweep also found flaws in Ryanair's site, together with those of Austrian and Finland's Blue 1 airline.

Blue 1 and Austrian have since amended the offending practices, while Ryanair has been asked to do so, a statement from the Norwegian Consumer Ombudsman's office said.

May 0808 1426 GMT

Load-Date: May 9, 2008

End of Document



Travel tips

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 29, 2008 Tuesday 3:05 AM EST

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Length: 454 words

Body

DPA x dpa SPECIAL Travel Travel tips
Harleys descend on Hamburg

Hamburg (dpa) - The north German city of Hamburg is the venue this summer for one of Europe's largest gatherings of Harley-Davidson enthusiasts. From June 20 to 22, 2008 an estimated 50,000 visitors will flock to the downtown Heiligengeistfeld showground to be treated to an extravaganza of music, shows and other events dedicated to the US-made motorcycles. A 60-metre public viewing TV screen will ensure that football fans attending the event do not miss any of the European Championship games.

Internet: www.hamburg-tourism.de

Bagpipes galore at Edinburgh Tattoo

Edinburgh (dpa) - The spine-tingling sound of massed bagpipes will fill the streets of Edinburgh from August 1 to 23, 2008 when the largest gathering of military musicians in Britain are set to perform at the 2008 edition of the showpiece armed services event, the 59th Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The production features a range of international performers, including a 150-man strong bagpipe band from Missouri in the United States. Performances start on weekdays at 21.00, with tickets costing between 17 and 62 euros (26 and 97 dollars). On Saturdays there are two extra shows at 19.30 and 22.30. For bookings see: -

Internet: www.visitbritain.com/de

Vignette replaces toll booths in Slovenia

Stuttgart (dpa) - Motorists on the motorway in Slovenia now need to display a vignette or small coloured sticker in order to show that they have paid the road toll levied for the use of these highways, the German-based motoring association Auto Club Europe (ACE) in Stuttgart advises. The vignette is obligatory from July 1, 2008 and

Travel tips

is valid for six months or a year. The sticker costs 35 or 55 euros (55 to 86 dollars) respectively. For motorcyclists the vignette costs 27.50 euros (43 dollars) and is only available for a whole year. The vignette procedure is due to be replaced by 2010 with a satellite-based toll electronic system.

New Ryanair flights from Bremen to Salzburg and Haugesund

London (dpa) - Lowcost-carrier Ryanair is to offer flights from Bremen in northern Germany to the Austrian city of Salzburg and Haugesund in Norway from June 3, 2008 onwards. Tickets for the services can be booked immediately, the airline announced in London.

The connections from Bremen to Salzburg are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10.40 with a Saturday flight at 11.30. Flights from Bremen to Haugesund leave on Wednesdays and Sundays at 11.30. Ryanair's summer timetable includes a number of other revisions such as an increase in flights from Bremen to Malaga and Mallorca to four a week. Ryanair planes began flying from Bremen to Edinburgh and to Manchester from April.

Apr 2908 0305 GMT

Load-Date: April 29, 2008

End of Document



European Court rejects Aer Lingus appeal over Ryanair shareholding

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 19, 2008 Wednesday 9:51 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 301 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Justice Aviation Ireland European Court rejects Aer Lingus appeal over Ryanair shareholding Brussels

The European Court on Wednesday refused to block Irish low-cost airline Ryanair from using its voting rights in rival Aer Lingus, in the latest twist to a vicious takeover battle.

"Aer Lingus has failed to fulfil the conditions required for interim relief," which would block Ryanair's use of its voting rights, because it has not proved that the use of such rights would cause Aer Lingus irreparable damage, the President of the European Court of First Instance Marc Jaeger ruled.

Aer Lingus' argument that Ryanair's acquisition of 29.4 per cent of its shares means that it has already implemented an illegal takeover "cannot be considered" as valid, Jaeger ruled.

The legal battle dates back to 2006, when the Irish government decided to privatize the formerly state-owned Aer Lingus. On October 23 of that year, Ryanair launched a bid to buy the entire company.

But on June 27, 2007, the European Commission - the body charged with policing the European Union's single market - decided that the takeover would break EU competition rules, and banned it.

Ryanair challenged that decision in the European Court. It continued to buy shares in Aer Lingus, which responded by asking the court to make Ryanair sell its shares, and block it from using its voting rights until the case had been concluded.

Wednesday's decision deals only with the temporary block on the use of voting rights.

Ryanair's challenge of the commission decision, and Aer Lingus' demand that Ryanair be forced to sell the shares, are both still

European Court rejects Aer Lingus appeal over Ryanair shareholding

pending in the court.

Court officials say that the average time which a case can last is around two years - a time frame which would lead to a conclusion in mid-2009.

Mar 1908 0951 GMT

Load-Date: March 20, 2008

End of Document



Ryanair to launch domestic flights in Germany

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 19, 2008 Wednesday 12:04 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 80 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Transport Aviation Ryanair to launch domestic flights in Germany Berlin
Ryanair is to open a domestic route in Germany
next month, the Irish no frills airline announced Wednesday.

Starting April 28, Ryanair will offer daily morning and evening
flights between Berlin and Hahn, near the financial centre of
Frankfurt, the company said.

A statement said Ryanair will also open a domestic route in France
between Marseille and Paris-Beauvais.

Mar 1908 1204 GMT

Load-Date: March 20, 2008

End of Document



Paris public transport bans ad critical of Sarkozy

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 22, 2008 Friday 8:41 AM EST

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Length: 299 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France Media Sarkozy Paris public transport bans ad critical of Sarkozy Paris
The advertising section of the RATP public transport network serving the greater Paris area has banned an advertising poster for a weekly magazine that suggests President Nicolas Sarkozy is mentally ill, the news web site Rue89 reported Friday.

According to the report, Metrobus - which controls the ads that appear in the buses, metros and trains serving the capital and its suburbs - rejected two versions of the ad for the weekly *Courrier International*.

Both ads show the cover of the magazine's new issue, with the headline on one reading "Madrid's View: Sarkozy Is a Seriously Ill Person."

When that was turned down by Metrobus, the magazine offered another version, with the headline "Madrid's View: Sarkozy - Sick with Ego," which was also refused.

The headlines referred to four stories produced for the magazine by the daily *El Pais*, whose assistant editor-in-chief Lluís Bassets wrote one of the articles.

In it, he writes: "The illness from which Sarkozy suffers is not as serious as (former French President Francois) Mitterand's prostate cancer, but it affects that vital organ, the ego, which suffers from a hypertrophy that is probably irreversible."

Rue89 suggested that the refusal by Metrobus to run the ads could be linked to the recent decisions by Sarkozy to go to court against ads and stories that displeased him.

In January he and his then-fiancee Carla Bruni sued low-cost carrier Ryanair for using their images without permission.

He later filed criminal charges against the web site of the weekly

Paris public transport bans ad critical of Sarkozy

le Nouvel Observateur for running a story claiming that he had sent an SMS to his former wife one week before he married Bruni that read: "Come back and I'll cancel everything."
Feb 2208 0841 GMT

Load-Date: February 23, 2008

End of Document



Sarkozy sues weekly's website for "fake" SMS to ex-wife

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 8, 2008 Friday 9:50 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 214 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA POLITICS France Justice Sarkozy Sarkozy sues weekly's website for "fake" SMS to ex-wife Paris French President Nicolas Sarkozy has filed a criminal complaint against the website of the left-wing weekly Le Nouvel Observateur for publishing an SMS message he supposedly sent to his ex-wife a few days before his marriage to Carla Bruni, French media reported Friday.

The message to his former wife, Cecilia, read: "If you come back, I'll cancel everything," a supposed allusion to his wedding with the former supermodel, which took place on February 2. Sarkozy's divorce from Cecilia was announced in October.

According to Sarkozy's lawyer, Thierry Herzog, "The message is fake, an alteration of reality." Therefore the president is charging the website with forgery, use of a forged document and possession of a forged document, offences liable to a sentence of up to three years in prison and a fine of 45,000 euros (65,250 dollars).

According to the daily Le Figaro, this marks the first time a French head of state has filed criminal charges against a news organ.

Earlier this month, a Paris court ruled in favour of a lawsuit brought by Sarkozy and Bruni against low-cost carrier Ryanair for using a photograph of the couple without their consent in a newspaper ad.

Feb 0808 0950 GMT

Load-Date: February 9, 2008



Sarkozys win lawsuit against Ryanair ad

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 5, 2008 Tuesday 2:08 PM EST

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Length: 190 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France Justice Sarkozy Sarkozys win lawsuit against Ryanair ad Paris
A Paris court on Tuesday ruled in favour of French President Nicolas Sarkozy and his new wife, singer Carla Bruni, in their lawsuit against low-cost carrier Ryanair over an ad that used a photograph of the couple without their consent, French radio reported.

The court granted Sarkozy's demand for 1 euro (1.48 dollars) in damages and interest for infringement on the rights of his image for the purpose of advertising.

However, Bruni was awarded only 60,000 euros instead of the 500,000 euros she had demanded because of her prior work as one of the world's highest-paid models.

The court found that the ad had caused "property and moral damage" to the couple, and prohibited Ryanair from running it again.

The ad appeared last week in the daily Le Parisien and depicted Sarkozy and Bruni smiling, with a thought balloon superimposed above Bruni's head saying, "With Ryanair my entire family can come to my wedding."

In a way, the ad was prophetic, for the 53-year-old French president and Bruni, 40, tied the knot just several days later, on Saturday.

Feb 0508 1408 GMT

Load-Date: February 6, 2008



Ryanair predicts "perfect storm" as profits dip by almost a third

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 4, 2008 Monday 10:47 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 253 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair predicts "perfect storm" as profits dip by almost a third London
Leading budget airline Ryanair Monday reported a
27-per cent dip in profits in the last quarter of 2007 and predicted
a "perfect storm" in the European airline sector hit by higher oil
prices and weaker consumer demand.

The Irish no-frills carrier said it made an adjusted after-tax
profit of 26 million pounds (51.4 million dollars) between October
and the end of December 2007, which is 27 per cent less than during
the same period in 2006.

Presenting the figures, Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary
warned that the European airline sector was facing the possibility of
a "perfect storm" of higher oil prices, poor consumer demand, a
weaker pound sterling and higher airport costs.

Profits in the coming financial year, starting in April, could
fall by as much as 50 per cent.

Ryanair, which has not introduced a fuel surcharge, was
"essentially unhedged" against rising oil costs, O'Leary said.

But he pledged that the airline would continue to slash prices.

"There can be only one competitive response to any consumer
uncertainty and that is for Ryanair to slash fares and yields,
stimulate traffic, encourage price-sensitive consumers, and promote
new routes and base developments."

Ryanair, which flies to 26 European countries, reported that
revenue had increased by 16 per cent to 426 million pounds in the
last quarter of 2007 and passenger numbers had risen by 21 per cent
to 12.4 million.

Feb 0408 1047 GMT

Ryanair predicts "perfect storm" as profits dip by almost a third

Load-Date: February 5, 2008

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair expects further profit dip but hails "recession"

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 4, 2008 Monday 2:35 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 510 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair expects further profit dip but hails "recession" London Europe's leading budget carrier Ryanair fears that profits could be halved this year amid predictions that airlines will fly into a "perfect storm" of relentlessly rising oil prices and weaker consumer demand.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary, making the predictions Monday, said the Dublin-based airline suffered a 27-per cent dip in profits in the last quarter of 2007, leaving it with an adjusted after-tax profit of 26 million pounds (51.4 million dollars).

Profits in the coming financial year, starting in April, could fall by as much as 50 per cent, said O'Leary. But he insisted that Ryanair, which has not introduced a fuel surcharge, would continue to slash prices for customers.

In this context, O'Leary welcomed the prospect of a possible recession in Britain, saying that Ryanair would help people "fly even through a recession" by keeping prices low.

"I don't know why we are trying to avert a recession. We need a recession. I think it would be great for the aviation industry," the controversial self-made airline boss said.

He argued that an economic recession would "get rid of environmental taxes and a lot of the environmental nonsense" talked about in relation to aviation.

"We would welcome a good, deep recession for 12 to 18 months," said O'Leary, adding that he did not believe that people would cut back on flying during such a period of belt-tightening.

Ryanair hoped to increase annual passenger levels by 19 per cent to 50 million in 2008, he predicted, rising as high as 83 million by

ROUNDUP: Ryanair expects further profit dip but hails "recession"

2012 and doubling profits.

The budget carrier would "never" introduce fuel surcharges, vowed O'Leary, while urging passengers to "stop grumbling" about the much-criticized rise in extra-charges for airport check-ins and check-in luggage.

Those charged would go up "until people chose to fly with carry-on bags only.

Revenue from the so-called "ancillary charges" rose by 30 per cent to 83.4 million pounds in the last quarter of 2007, in line with Ryanair's aim to generate 20 per cent of its revenues from the charges within 3 years.

Ryanair, which flies to 26 European countries, reported that revenue had increased by 16 per cent to 426 million pounds in the last quarter of 2007 and passenger numbers had risen by 21 per cent to 12.4 million.

Revenues were up 16 per cent to 427.1 million pounds in the last quarter of 2007.

Presenting the figures, O'Leary warned that the European airline sector was facing the possibility of a "perfect storm" of higher oil prices, poor consumer demand, a weaker pound sterling and higher airport costs.

He admitted that Ryanair was "essentially unhedged" against rising oil costs, but was confident that the airline could remain competitive through its price-cutting policy.

"There can be only one competitive response to any consumer uncertainty and that is for Ryanair to slash fares and yields, stimulate traffic, encourage price-sensitive consumers, and promote new routes and base developments."

Feb 0408 1435 GMT

Load-Date: February 5, 2008

End of Document



Sarkozy and Bruni sue Ryanair over ad

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 30, 2008 Wednesday 12:45 PM EST

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Length: 203 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France People Justice Sarkozy and Bruni sue Ryanair over ad Paris
An attorney for French President Nicolas Sarkozy on
Wednesday filed two lawsuits against low-cost carrier Ryanair over an
ad that uses a photograph of him and his girlfriend, singer Carla
Bruni, the website of the daily le Monde reported.

For infringement on the rights of his image without consent and
for the purpose of advertising, Sarkozy has demanded one euro (1.47
dollars) in damages and interest and an injunction against the
commercialization of his image. Bruni is asking for a payment of
500,000 euros against eventual future damages and interest.

Sarkozy's attorney, Thierry Herzog, said that Bruni's demand was
based on her work as a model.

"She has advertising contracts with brands that pay her a great
deal to represent them," he said. "A photo of Carla Bruni, that's
500,000 euros."

The ad appeared earlier this week in the daily Le Parisien and
depicts Sarkozy and Bruni smiling, with a thought balloon
superimposed above Bruni's head saying, "With Ryanair my entire
family can come to my wedding."

According to media reports, Sarkozy, who turned 53 on Monday, and
the 40-year-old Bruni could tie the knot in February.

Jan 3008 1245 GMT

Load-Date: January 31, 2008



CORRECTION (eca 145) French government may sue over Ryanair ad with Sarkozy and Bruni

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 2008 Monday 2:34 PM EST

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Length: 132 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France People Justice CORRECTION (eca 145) French government may sue over Ryanair ad with Sarkozy and Bruni Corrects Bruni's age to 40 in last graf Paris
The office of French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Monday it may sue low-cost carrier Ryanair over an ad in the daily Le Parisien that uses a photograph showing Sarkozy and his girlfriend, singer Carla Bruni.

"We are looking at all possible judicial avenues," Sarkozy's spokesman, David Martinon, was quoted as saying on the website of the daily 20 Minutes.

The ad shows the smiling couple, with a thought balloon over Bruni's head saying, "With Ryanair my entire family can come to my wedding."

According to media reports, Sarkozy, who turned 53 on Monday, and the 40-year-old Bruni could tie the knot next month.

Jan 2808 1434 GMT

Notes

Corrects Bruni's age to 40 in last graf

Load-Date: January 29, 2008



French government may sue over Ryanair ad with Sarkozy and Bruni

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 2008 Monday 1:46 PM EST

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Length: 122 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France People Justice French government may sue over Ryanair ad with Sarkozy and Bruni Paris
The office of French President Nicolas Sarkozy said
Monday it may sue low-cost carrier Ryanair over an ad in the daily Le
Parisien that uses a photograph showing Sarkozy and his girlfriend,
singer Carla Bruni.

"We are looking at all possible judicial avenues," Sarkozy's
spokesman, David Martinon, was quoted as saying on the website of the
daily 20 Minutes.

The ad shows the smiling couple, with a thought balloon over
Bruni's head saying, "With Ryanair my entire family can come to my
wedding."

According to media reports, Sarkozy, who turned 53 on Monday, and
the 39-year-old Bruni could tie the knot next month.

Jan 28 08 1346 GMT

Load-Date: January 29, 2008

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Sarkozy to sue Ryanair over ad

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 2008 Monday 6:46 PM EST

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Length: 139 words

Dateline: Paris

Body

DPA x France People Justice ROUNDUP: Sarkozy to sue Ryanair over ad Paris
French President Nicolas Sarkozy has decided to sue
low-cost carrier Ryanair over an ad in the daily Le Parisien that
uses a photograph showing him and his girlfriend, singer Carla Bruni,
a spokesman for his office said Monday.

"This is an abuse of the image of the president of the Republic,
and the president of the Republic has given instructions to his
attorney so that this affair will have the necessary civil actions,"
Franck Louvrier told journalists.

The ad in question shows the smiling couple, with a thought
balloon superimposed above Bruni's head saying, "With Ryanair my
entire family can come to my wedding."

According to media reports, Sarkozy, who turned 53 on Monday, and
the 40-year-old Bruni could tie the knot next month.

Jan 2808 1846 GMT

Load-Date: January 29, 2008

End of Document



Aer Lingus opens Belfast-Heathrow route

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 14, 2008 Monday 10:29 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 237 words

Dateline: Dublin/Belfast

Body

DPA FINANCE Nireland Transport Aviation Aer Lingus opens Belfast-Heathrow route Dublin/Belfast Irish carrier Aer Lingus opened its new Belfast-London Heathrow route Monday, a day after closing the 60-year-old link between Shannon in the west of Ireland and the British capital, Ireland's national broadcaster RTE reported.

Aer Lingus is going head-to-head on the Belfast-London route with Ryanair, EasyJet, BMI, Flybe and CityJet, giving passengers a total of eight possible routes to London from Belfast's two airports, the international and George Best Belfast City Airport.

Aer Lingus will operate three flights a day to Heathrow from Belfast.

Aer Lingus said it was on course to carry 500,000 passengers in the first year on all routes to and from Belfast, RTE radio reported, but it quoted the airline's chief executive Dermot Mannion as saying competition would be fierce.

Aer Lingus launched flights from Belfast International Airport to Barcelona and Amsterdam on December 10 as part of a 100-million-pound (223-million-dollar) investment in Northern Ireland, creating 100 jobs.

Flights to Geneva were added on December 11, and there are plans to introduce flights from Belfast to Budapest, Malaga, Rome, Faro and Nice before the spring.

The shift of Aer Lingus' London Heathrow flights from Shannon to the British-administered northern part of Ireland has been controversial in the Republic of Ireland.

Jan 1408 1029 GMT

Aer Lingus opens Belfast-Heathrow route

Load-Date: January 15, 2008

End of Document



One-bag rule for air travellers lifted at most British airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 7, 2008 Monday 1:40 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 209 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation One-bag rule for air travellers lifted at most British airports London
The much-loathed "one-bag rule" for hand luggage
was lifted at most British airports Monday amid fresh confusion over
which airports and which airlines were participating in the scheme.

London's main Heathrow airport joined more than 20 others around
the country in lifting the restrictions, but Gatwick, London's second
airport, will continue to stick to allowing only one bag onboard.

The two main budget airlines, Ryanair and easyJet, are also not
reverting to the two-bag rule, suspended after a major terror threat
to transatlantic air traffic in August, 2006.

Britain was the only European country that followed the US in
introducing the hand luggage restriction. However, a limit on liquids
that can be taken onboard remains.

Gatwick, where security concerns and lacking technology have
prevented a relaxation, is seeking to tackle the problem by allowing
two bags for connecting passengers passing through and a one-bag
regulation for everyone else.

Airports where the restriction was lifted today included Stansted,
Glasgow, Manchester and Cardiff. But Gatwick, Luton, Leeds and
Liverpool are among those sticking to the one-bag rule.

Jan 0708 1340 GMT

Load-Date: January 8, 2008



Report: Ryanair to pay damages to former Swedish premier

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 17, 2007 Monday 3:57 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 202 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

DPA POLITICS Sweden Politics Business Report: Ryanair to pay damages to former Swedish premier Stockholm Irish low-cost airline Ryanair was reported Monday to have agreed to pay damages to former Swedish prime minister Goran Persson and a former Swedish foreign minister.

Persson and Laila Freivalds sued the no-frills carrier in 2006 after their names and images were used in an advertisement without their prior consent.

The ad carried the text "Time to flee the country."

The two ex-politicians were roundly criticized for the former Swedish government's slow response to the December 2004 tsunami disaster that claimed the lives of hundreds of Swedish nationals.

A court date was planned for Tuesday but after a recent out of court settlement the case has been dropped, the online news site Realtid.se reported.

Persson and Freivalds had initially demanded 150,000 kronor (23,000 dollars) but settled for half the sum. They planned to donate the funds to charity, the report said.

Persson left politics earlier this year. Freivalds resigned in February 2006 over her role in shutting down the website of a right-wing group that planned to publish controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed.

Dec 1707 1557 GMT

Load-Date: December 18, 2007



ROUNDUP: Alitalia yet to respond to takeover bid

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 12, 2007 Wednesday 2:21 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 507 words

Dateline: Rome/Amsterdam

Body

DPA FINANCE Italy Business Aviation Dutch ROUNDUP: Alitalia yet to respond to takeover bid Changes dateline, releads with comments from KLM, details Rome/Amsterdam Alitalia has not yet responded to a takeover bid by French-Dutch carrier AirFrance-KLM, KLM Managing Director Peter Hartman told reporters on Wednesday.

On December 6, the AirFrance-KLM made a non-binding takeover bid for Italy's struggling national carrier. No financial details were released.

Italy's second largest airline AirOne and a group of Italian investors headed by the former chairman of Italy's state broadcaster RAI also made takeover bids last Thursday.

Hartman said KLM expects Alitalia to notify all bidders before the end of the month of which is selected to negotiate the takeover. Italian Transport Minister Alessandro Bianchi on Wednesday, meanwhile, said the announcement of the winning bid would be made Thursday after a meeting of Alitalia's board.

Bianchi said the Italian government was due later Wednesday to examine offers to buy the state's controlling stake of 49.9 per cent in Alitalia.

"Today we will look at the offers presented and we will decide," Bianchi said in a radio interview.

"An important country such as ours can't do without a carrier of reference," Bianchi told private broadcaster Radio 24.

Hartman, meanwhile stressed he did not expect the European Commission to block a possible takeover of Alitalia by AirFrance-KLM.

"The alternative is Alitalia's bankruptcy," he explained. "The

ROUNDUP: Alitalia yet to respond to takeover bid

European Commission does not want that."

Last Thursday, Europe's largest low-fare airline Ryanair requested the European Commission to block Air France-KLM's bid for Alitalia until both airlines have paid back 2.7 billion euros (3.94 billion dollars) in what it calls "illegal aid" from the French and Italian governments.

Alitalia has been in financial distress for many years. In the third quarter of this year, the company suffered a loss of 58 million euros (85 million dollars) before taxes.

AirFrance-KLM in a non-binding, so-called Letter of Interest issued when it presented its bid last week, set out all the benefits a merger between the companies could bring for both sides.

On Tuesday AirFrance-KLM CEO Jean-Cyril Spinetta said his company did not plan to convert Alitalia into a regional carrier, a concern raised by many Italian political and business leaders.

Fears have also been expressed that AirFrance-KLM may wish to concentrate activity only at Rome's Fiumicino airport, downsizing operations at Milan's Malpensa hub - a move which could result in thousands of job cuts.

While few details of the offers have been made public, AirOne - which is backed in its bid by Italy's largest bank IntesaSanpaolo - has indicated it would cut some 3,700 Alitalia jobs.

Unions have staunchly opposed any privatization plan that would require major job cuts and the government's previous bid to sell its Alitalia stake through an auction collapsed in July after potential buyers rejected conditions including a limit on the number of layoffs.

Dec 1207 1421 GMT

Notes

Changes dateline, releads with comments from KLM, details

Load-Date: December 13, 2007

End of Document



EU cracks down on irregular airline websites

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 13, 2007 Tuesday 12:20 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 270 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Business Aviation EU cracks down on irregular airline websites Brussels
A number of European airlines could be forced to close their websites after a European-wide sweep found wide-ranging violations in the way ticket prices and sales conditions are advertised.

The sweep, whose results are due to be published by the European Commission on Wednesday, was carried out in 15 European Union member states and in Norway, between September 24 and September 28.

A total of 447 websites were checked for misleading or deceptive information about flight tickets. Of these, 226 showed irregularities.

Common violations of EU rules include airport taxes and additional fees not being immediately included in the price of the ticket and the promotion of ultra-cheap or even free tickets that are not in fact available when a consumer wants to buy one.

Other common irregularities involved insurance or other additional services boxes being ticked "yes" by default and the failure to provide customers with complete information about cancellation procedures.

Of the 48 websites checked in Belgium, 46 were found to violate an EU directive banning misleading advertisement.

Denmark came second with 25 violations out of 62 websites checked while no irregularities were found among the 20 websites checked in Austria.

The airlines have been given four months to respond. If they do not fix the problems, they will be named and shamed by the Commission.

EU cracks down on irregular airline websites

Non-compliant websites face a range of penalties, including fines and closure.

Low-cost carriers such as Ryanair are thought to be among the worst offenders.

Nov 1307 1220 GMT

Load-Date: November 14, 2007

End of Document



Ryanair sues European Commission over Air France subsidies

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 8, 2007 Thursday 11:07 PM EST

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Length: 89 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA x Ireland Transport EU France Ryanair sues European Commission over Air France subsidies Dublin
Irish discount carrier Ryanair is suing the
European Commission for failing to investigate national subsidies
going to Air France-KLM, the airline said Thursday.

The company said it has complained 18 months ago about lower
airport taxes offered by French authorities to Air France. Ryanair
said it repeatedly called on the European Commission to investigate
the subsidies for a possible violation of EU competition law.

Nov 0807 2307 GMT

Load-Date: November 9, 2007

End of Document



Ryanair in profit growth despite rising fuel charges

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 5, 2007 Monday 8:36 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 142 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair in profit growth despite rising fuel charges Dublin
Budget airline Ryanair Monday reported a
23-per-cent rise in pre-tax profits for the six months up to the end
of September to 459.5 million euros (628.9 million dollars).

The Dublin-based airline predicted that full-year net profits were
set to rise by 17.5 per cent to 470 million euros, higher than
previous forecasts of 440 million euros.

Cost growth of 5 per cent, due largely to higher oil prices and
increased airport charges, was offset by a 20-per-cent rise in
passenger numbers to 26.6 million for the period, Ryanair said.

The airline has not imposed a fuel surcharge.

However, speaking in a BBC interview Monday, Ryanair chief Michael
O'Leary said the airline would soon introduce a charge for passengers
who do not check in online.

Nov 0507 0836 GMT

Load-Date: November 6, 2007



Ireland, Britain to end passport-free travel, report says

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 24, 2007 Wednesday 11:08 AM EST

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Length: 167 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA x Ireland Transport Britain Ireland, Britain to end passport-free travel, report says Dublin
Britain and Ireland are to end a passport-free
travel arrangement between the two countries that has existed since
the foundation of the Irish Free State in the early 1920s, The Irish
Times reported Wednesday.

The ending of the Common Travel Area between Britain and the Irish
Republic is part of London's plan to set up electronic border
controls by 2009, the report said.

Dublin was expected to follow suit with its own electronic border
controls to track terrorist suspects, criminals and illegal
immigrants.

There would be no requirement to use a passport for travel between
British-administered Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Although people have been able to travel freely between Ireland
and Britain without any documents since 1922, low-cost airlines like
Ryanair have insisted on photo identification since the September 11,
2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Oct 2407 1108 GMT

Load-Date: October 25, 2007



NEWS FEATURE: Battle takes shape for Central Europe's airport hub

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 15, 2007 Monday 3:56 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 698 words

Byline: Andrew McCathie, dpa

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE CEE Business Airports NEWS FEATURE: Battle takes shape for Central Europe's airport hub
Andrew McCathie, dpa Berlin
Fast-paced economic growth, a surge in airline traffic and a dramatic expansion of budget airline services have combined to help trigger a race among airports to emerge as the key regional hub for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

With a new growing sense of prosperity and rising wages across CEE countries, airport operators in major cities in and round the region have been moving to upgrade their facilities and in some cases re-establish links with the CEE aviation industry.

Indeed, airports including Warsaw, Prague, Vienna and Berlin have been attempting to position themselves to cash in on the opening up of the skies over the CEE region as travellers abandon the other, often run-down, transport systems such as roads to exert even more pressure on the burgeoning airline sector.

In the meantime, both Vienna and Prague appear to have stolen the march on both Warsaw and Berlin, which have been struggling to press on with their plans for launching major makeovers of their airport facilities.

On Monday Poland's state airports operator PPL said it was cancelling a contract with a Spanish-Polish construction consortium for the expansion of Warsaw's airport after a series of delays in completing the building work for a second terminal.

"Since April 30 when, under the contract, the departure hall should have started receiving passengers, the consortium has declared repeatedly that the northern piers and departure hall would be ready to open," PPL said in a statement.

NEWS FEATURE: Battle takes shape for Central Europe's airport hub

As a sign of the sense of urgency surrounding the building of the new terminal in Warsaw, air passenger traffic in Poland has in recent years been growing at about 30 per cent.

With Central Europe also rapidly emerging as a major tourist destination, the growth of budget airline operators in the CEE means that for parts of the region cheap carriers are essentially taking over from scheduled operators.

Europe's leading no-frills carrier Ryanair has just launched seven new services from Budapest starting next month as a result helping to give a new impetus to tourism in the Hungarian capital.

There are currently about eight low-cost carriers jetting into airports in Central Europe.

In the case of Berlin's vast new 620-million-euro international airport, authorities in the German capital have expressed confidence that the airport will open on time in October 2011.

This is despite a series of hiccups and delays in the airport's development including a move this month to reopen the tender for the terminal building.

Once complete, the Berlin airport operators plan to focus on markets in both Asia and Central Europe arguing that the German capital's airport is closer than airports in other parts of western Europe.

But reflecting its ambitions to become a new transit link between Eastern and Western Europe, Vienna airport operator Flughafen Wien AG said last week that the number of passengers that passed through its doors last month jumped 10.7 per cent year-on-year following a 10.5-per-cent rise in August.

At the same time, Prague airport, which is due to be privatized next year, recorded an almost 10-per-cent surge in earnings during the first half of this year with revenues growing 6.6 per cent and passenger numbers racing ahead by nine per cent to 5.58 million.

"We expect the number of passengers to exceed 12 million by the end of the year," the airport's general director Miroslav Dvorak said, with the sell-off of the airport expected to generate between 70 billion koruna (3.3 billion dollars) and 100 billion koruna.

Some 1.2 million people used the airport in July alone, which is about the same number of people who live in the Czech capital. The airport is hoping to handle 20 million passengers by 2020.

Prague airport's success has helped to transform the airport into one of Europe's busiest and follows the opening of a new terminal last year to handle essentially western European passengers following the expansion of its facilities.

Spanish flag carrier Iberia last month announced a string of new services connecting Prague to Latin America.

Oct 1507 1556 GMT

Load-Date: October 16, 2007

NEWS FEATURE: Battle takes shape for Central Europe's airport hub

End of Document



OBITUARY: Tony Ryan: Irish entrepreneur who revolutionized air travel

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 4, 2007 Thursday 11:23 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 559 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland People Aviation OBITUARY: Tony Ryan: Irish entrepreneur who revolutionized air travel
epa file photos 401137852, 401137853 available Dublin/London
Dr Tony Ryan, the Irish entrepreneur and
founder of low-cost airline Ryanair, who has died aged 71, was
hailed Thursday for revolutionizing air travel by pioneering the
European low-cost airline industry.

A statement from his family said Ryan passed away at his home in
Celbridge, County Kildare, after a long illness Wednesday afternoon.

"We are proud of Tony's many achievements, of his spirit of
entrepreneurship which created enterprise and opportunity for many
people in this country and abroad," a statement from his family said.

Ryan, the son of a train driver, was born on February 2, 1936, in
Thurles, County Tipperary, where he started his first job in a sugar
factory after leaving school.

He worked as a baggage handler for former state airline Aer Lingus
in the 1950s before setting up his own leasing company, Guinness Peat
Aviation (GPA), with one aircraft, in 1975.

Over the next 15 years, GPA grew to become the largest aircraft
leasing company in the world with assets under management of 7.5
billion dollars, according to the London Times Thursday.

The company collapsed after a botched flotation attempt in 1992,
and was eventually acquired by finance firm GE Capital.

Ryanair, which he co-founded in 1985, was initially an equally
daunting challenge, starting with one small aircraft flying to
Britain from Waterford in Ireland's south-east.

Under chief executive Michael O'Leary, hired by Ryan as his

OBITUARY: Tony Ryan: Irish entrepreneur who revolutionized air travel

right-hand man, the no-frills airline has grown to be the biggest in Europe, carrying 50 million passengers a year with a pre-tax profit of 401 million euros (542 million dollars) in the last financial year.

O'Leary described Ryan as "one of the greatest Irishmen of the 20th century" who would leave an "astonishing legacy."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said Ryan's contribution to the "development of aviation in Ireland and indeed globally was immense."

"The establishment of Ryanair and its subsequent rise to become one of the leading carriers in Europe is one of the greatest Irish success stories and will be rightly regarded as perhaps his greatest legacy."

"He possessed an extraordinary vision. Whether it was airline investment in Asia, vineyards in Europe or bloodstock in the US, he brought a tremendous sense of style, charm and good humour to all of his business and personal relationships," Ryanair chairman David Bonderman said about Ryan.

The airline's rocketing success since its stock market flotation in 1997, and the revolution in cheap air travel, enabled Ryan to invest in airline ventures in China and Latin America.

However, there was "nothing no-frills" about Ryan's own lifestyle, as the Financial Times pointed out Thursday.

Ryan owned properties across the globe, art collections and racehorse studs and became one of Ireland's biggest philanthropists and supporters of the arts.

He had amassed a considerable fortune, estimated at 1.2 billion euros, and lived partly in Monaco in tax exile.

Last year, he provided 10 million euros for a business school in Dublin named after him.

"His legacy is clearly evident today as Ireland remains one of the key global centres for the international aircraft-leasing business," Ahern said.

Oct 0407 1123 GMT

Notes

epa file photos 401137852, 401137853 available

Load-Date: October 5, 2007

End of Document



Aer Lingus reports 42-per-cent drop in half-year profits

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 30, 2007 Thursday 10:28 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 251 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Aer Lingus reports 42-per-cent drop in half-year profits Dublin Irish carrier Aer Lingus reported a decrease in pre-tax profits of 42 per cent to 11.5 million euros (15.7 million dollars) between January and June compared to the first half of 2006 due to increased costs, national broadcaster RTE reported Thursday.

The profit slump was caused by higher prices for fuel, airport charges and personnel, RTE said, citing the company.

The airline is embroiled in a dispute over its decision to set up a hub in the Northern Irish capital Belfast by moving its London Heathrow slots from Shannon airport in Ireland's mid-west.

The move has angered Aer Lingus' pilots and staff, who claim the pay and conditions in Belfast are less favourable. They fear Aer Lingus could try to extend these terms across the whole company and have threatened industrial action.

A strike called by pilots last week that was averted at the eleventh hour has already cost Aer Lingus 3.5 million euros, while defending against a takeover bid by rival Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair has cost 8 million euros.

Fuel cost 28 per cent more at 116 million euros in the first half of 2007 compared with 2006, salaries increased 12 per cent to 150 million euros with 220 extra staff and airport charges went up 4.3 per cent, RTE reported.

Passenger number increased 6 per cent during the first six months of 2007 and sales increased by 47 million euros to almost 500 million euros, RTE reported.

Aug 3007 1028 GMT

Aer Lingus reports 42-per-cent drop in half-year profits

Load-Date: August 31, 2007

End of Document



FEATURE: Destination no longer matters with cheap flight revolution

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 9, 2007 Thursday 3:30 AM EST

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Length: 796 words

Byline: Gaby Mahlberg, dpa

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA x Europe Tourism Ireland FEATURE: Destination no longer matters with cheap flight revolution Gaby Mahlberg, dpa Dublin

The destination doesn't matter that much as long as the flight is cheap. Several mouse-clicks on an internet site will book you a flight, travel insurance and even a hotel. It's so easy that we fly more and we fly more often. The low-cost airline revolution has changed the way we travel.

"We go for the city break destinations, anything that's easy to reach from Cork Airport," Fionan Sheenan, 25, says as he is having a pint with his friends at the airport bar in the southern Irish city of Cork.

Fionan and his friends are on their way to a drink-fuelled stag weekend in Liverpool. He says they would usually be willing to spend up to 250 euros (345 dollars) on a return flight and calculates that they might spend another 500 euros each in Liverpool, where they will be staying for two nights.

The 500 euros will pay for beer, but also - well - "other services," one slightly inebriated member of the group says with a cheeky grin.

The friends have already been away for stag weekends at a number of different destinations, including Munich, Prague, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Marbella.

Since 2000, the city break sector has grown massively, now accounting for 38 per cent of all European outbound travel, as people take shorter, more frequent trips, according to the World Travel Trends Report 2006-7 compiled by international tourism consulting group IPK.

Where people choose to travel is often quite random. Keith

FEATURE: Destination no longer matters with cheap flight revolution

O'Grady, 26, also waiting in Cork's airport bar to go on his own stag weekend to Amsterdam, explains his choice in simple terms: "I haven't been there yet."

Low-cost airlines are happy to provide for those who are willing to try out something new. It's no longer just the capital cities people are heading to.

"People go online and look for a cheap deal. They just go to places they've never heard of or never been to and have a good time," Ryanair press officer Lorna Farren tells Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

"City breaks have always been there, say to Paris or (Amsterdam) Schipol. What is new is the locations," Farren says. It's no longer just the classic destinations. "Now you can go to Bremen, Prague or Barcelona," she adds.

The price is an important factor for the increase in air travel.

"Formerly, people couldn't afford to travel. The low-cost revolution (in air travel) has made Europe a lot more accessible," Farren tells dpa.

"Flying used to be a preserve of the rich, now it's available to all," she adds.

Not even concerns about pollution and global warming can put a halt to the success of the airline, which expects to carry some 52 million passengers on 499 routes across Europe this year.

Dublin-based Ryanair was Europe's original low-fares airline and is still its largest low-fares carrier, being voted Best Value Airline in 1996 - the same year the European Union completed its Open Skies deregulation, allowing airlines to compete freely across Europe.

It all started in 1985 with a 15-seater aircraft, operating between Waterford in the south-east of Ireland and London Gatwick.

In 1986 Ryanair obtained permission from the regulatory authorities to challenge the fares of British Airways and Aer Lingus on the Dublin-London route. With a return fare of 99 pounds (200 dollars), Ryanair more than halved its competitors' prices.

But the real low-fares revolution came in 1990, when Ryanair completely restructured its operations. It moved to a single aircraft fleet type, scrapped the free drinks and expensive meals on board and reduced the lowest fares to 59 pounds return.

In 2007, the cheapest flights available only cost 1 euro cent (just over 1 dollar cent) plus taxes and fees, and in May Ryanair launched the world's first free seat giveaway, including taxes and charges, for 1 million passengers.

Those who book quickly can get a real bargain.

Part of Ryanair's success is that it focuses on smaller regional airports, Farren says. "We offer direct flights directly into holiday regions, for instance in the south of France, and avoid the larger crowded airports."

While this sounds great, many travellers might have been baffled

FEATURE: Destination no longer matters with cheap flight revolution

when they found themselves landing at one of the tiny airports that in recent years have sprung up like mushrooms from the grounds of disused military bases around Europe, kilometres away from their final destination.

Thinking they might go to the regional capital Frankfurt in the German state of Hesse for instance, they would have found themselves stranded in the beautiful Hunsruck countryside in the state of Rhineland Palatinate, nearly 2 hours away by coach.

Often, reaching one's final destination, it seems, is an adventure in itself. But then again - it's cheap.

Aug 0907 0330 GMT

Load-Date: August 10, 2007

End of Document



Calls for Irish government to halt Aer Lingus pull-out from Shannon

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 9, 2007 Thursday 8:40 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 357 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Calls for Irish government to halt Aer Lingus pull-out from Shannon Dublin

There were fresh calls Thursday on the Irish government to intervene to stop the ending of Irish airline Aer Lingus services between Shannon airport in Ireland's mid-west and London's Heathrow Airport, Ireland's state broadcaster RTE reported.

Aer Lingus announced Tuesday that it would be ending the Shannon-Heathrow link and replacing it with a new service between London's Heathrow and Belfast International Airport, formerly known as Aldergrove.

There is great concern in the mid-west Shannon region that the switch would cause huge job losses and the loss of US investment through Shannon.

Announcing the move, Aer Lingus said that Belfast represented an opportunity for better growth and profits compared to Shannon, the major hub for attracting international business to Ireland's rural west.

The airline's plan, unveiled at a joint press conference with leaders of the new power-sharing government in Northern Ireland, means that Belfast will gain three flights daily to Heathrow, Europe's busiest airport, starting in mid-January.

Ryanair, which has a 25-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus, and Shannon Town Council have called on Ireland's Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to explain why the company's landing slots at Heathrow were not ring-fenced to prevent them being lost to Shannon.

Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary called on Ahern to interrupt his holidays in Kerry to explain why the government has not honoured its promises that the Heathrow link would be maintained, RTE said.

Calls for Irish government to halt Aer Lingus pull-out from Shannon

O'Leary said Ryanair had committed to preserving the service last year when it sought to acquire Aer Lingus, RTE reported.

The Mayor of Shannon, Councillor Sean McLoughlin, told RTE that thousands of jobs and millions of euros in regional investment were being threatened by "the nonsensical Aer Lingus decision" which would have to be reversed.

Speaking after an emergency meeting of the Town Council Wednesday, he said the former transport minister Martin Cullen had questions to answer over the failure to ring-fence the landing slots.

Aug 0907 0840 GMT

Load-Date: August 10, 2007

End of Document



Ryanair reports increased profits despite rising costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 31, 2007 Tuesday 7:41 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 242 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair reports increased profits despite rising costs London Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair Tuesday reported profits of 138.9 million euros (188 million dollars) in the three months up to the end of June.

Despite weaker demand, profit figures were 20-per-cent higher than in the same period last year, Ryanair said.

Ancillary revenues - including excess baggage charges and travel insurance - grew by 53 per cent to 117 million euros.

The airline predicted that passenger growth would slow this winter due to a cutback in services from London's Stansted airport, its main hub in Britain.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary announced that the airline would cut back flights from Stansted this winter because of "appalling" services at the airport and spiralling costs resulting from the doubling of airport charges in April.

The rise in charges meant that it was more profitable to ground seven of its 40 aircraft this winter rather than fly them, O'Leary said.

Services would be cut by nearly 20 per cent.

Airport operator BAA was providing "abject facilities at extortionate prices," O'Leary said. The current service provided by BAA at Stansted was "nothing short of appalling."

Ryanair predicted that passenger volumes would grow by around 18 per cent to 50 million instead of the 24-per-cent growth previously expected.

Ryanair reports increased profits despite rising costs

The profit outlook for the whole year remained cautious, Ryanair said.

Jul 31 07 0741 GMT

Load-Date: August 1, 2007

End of Document



1ST LEAD: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 10:27 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 250 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Aviation Ireland 1ST LEAD: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus Brussels
EU Commission regulators ruled Wednesday that
budget airline Ryanair would not be allowed to take over its Irish
rival, Aer Lingus, formerly owned by the state.

The deal would limit competition on the route as the two airlines
combined would control more than 80 per cent of all European flights
to and from Dublin airport, the European Commission said.

The EU Commission made its ruling Wednesday after a seven-month
investigation into competition on the route.

The Board of Aer Lingus welcomed the EU Commission's decision,
saying it was "good news for Aer Lingus and our customers."

John Sharman, Chairman of Aer Lingus told Irish state broadcaster
RTE that "the creation of one dominant player out of Ireland, despite
the protestations of Ryanair, just cannot be in the interests of
consumers."

Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary, had said that he
expected the EC to block the 1.4-billion-euros (1.8 billion dollars)
deal on competition grounds.

Ryanair is expected to take a legal challenge against the
decision, RTE reported.

Last October, Michael O'Leary shocked the world of aviation when
he announced Ryanair wanted to take over Aer Lingus, and the Irish
government, which had privatised Aer Lingus two weeks earlier, was
particularly put out, according to RTE reports.

There is speculation on whether Ryanair would be forced to sell
its 25 per cent stake in Aer Lingus.

1ST LEAD: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Jun 27 07 1027 GMT

Load-Date: June 28, 2007

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 12:53 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 305 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Aviation Ireland ROUNDUP: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus Brussels Budget airline Ryanair is to appeal the European Commission's ruling Wednesday preventing it from taking over its Irish rival, Aer Lingus, formerly owned by the state.

Aer Lingus has welcomed the commission's ruling that the merger would have created a monopoly on the 35 routes operated by both airlines, Irish state broadcaster RTE reported.

The deal would limit competition as the two airlines combined would control more than 80 per cent of all European flights to and from Dublin airport, the European Commission said.

John Sharman, Chairman of Aer Lingus told RTE that "the creation of one dominant player out of Ireland, despite the protestations of Ryanair, just cannot be in the interests of consumers."

The EU Commission made its ruling Wednesday after a seven-month investigation into competition on the route.

The Board of Aer Lingus welcomed the European Commission's decision, saying it was "good news for Aer Lingus and our customers."

Aer Lingus Chief Executive Dermot Mannion said the ruling would lead to continued strong competition between the two airlines at Dublin Airport.

Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary, had said that he expected the EU to block the 1.4-billion-euros (1.8 billion dollars) deal on competition grounds.

Ryanair, Europe's largest budget airline, is expected to take a legal challenge against the decision, RTE reported.

ROUNDUP: Brussels blocks Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Last October, O'Leary shocked the world of aviation when he announced Ryanair wanted to take over Aer Lingus, and the Irish government, which had privatised Aer Lingus two weeks earlier, was particularly put out, according to RTE reports.

There was speculation Wednesday on whether Ryanair would be forced to sell its 25-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus.

Jun 27 07 1253 GMT

Load-Date: June 28, 2007

End of Document



Schedule for Wednesday, June 27, 1000 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 9:59 AM EST

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Length: 856 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1000 Schedule for Wednesday, June 27, 1000 GMT

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) Cork Tel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 671-3169

EUROPE:

London - Tony Blair hands over British prime ministership to
Gordon Brown. Coverage includes final parliamentary
question time (by 1230), Brown's formal appointment
(around 1400), Blair's expected Mideast Quartet
appointment (time unknown). See also feature planned
(Britain-Politics)

London/ - Blair to become Middle East envoy says Irish leader
Dublin (Mideast-Conflicts/Britain, moving)

Rome - Popular Rome mayor launches Prodi succession bid
(Italy-Politics, moving)

Strasbourg - Euro-MPs debate report on CIA rendition flights and
secret prisons in Europe
(Europe-Politics/US)

Brussels - EU commission forbids Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus
(EU-Aviation/Ireland, moving)

MIDEAST:

Gaza City - Death toll in Gaza fighting reaches at least 10
(Mideast-Conflicts, moving)

Schedule for Wednesday, June 27, 1000 GMT

Cairo - Hatshepsut's mummy finally identified via DNA
(Egypt-Archaeology, moving)

Tehran - Reports: Riots following petrol rationing in Iran
(Iran-Economy/Energy)

Baghdad - Developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

ASIA:

Tokyo - North Korea invites IAEA inspectors to Yongbyon
nuclear reactor
(NKorea-Nuclear)

Shanghai - Chinese stocks soar as industrial profits rise 42 per
cent
(China-Markets)

Jakarta - Indonesian Islamic hardliners want anti-terrorism
squad disbanded
(Indonesia-Terrorism)

Manila - US to verify shutdown of North Korea's main nuclear
reactor
(NKorea-Nuclear/US/Philippines)

- Philippines appoints new peace negotiator with Muslim
rebels
(Philippine-Conflicts)

Christchurch, - China, Korea, Madagascar win World Heritage Site
New Zealand listings
(World-Culture/UNESCO)

Phnom Penh - Cambodian plane crash victims placed in morgue
(Cambodia-Accidents/Transport)

Yangon - UN special envoy on child soldiers in Myanmar
(Myanmar-Politics/UN)

Islamabad - Death toll from cyclone in Pakistan's coastal areas
rises to 56
(Pakistan-Weather)

AMERICAS:

Washington - US Secretary of State Rice addresses US India
Business Council
(US-Business/India, after 1800)

New York - UN releases world population report
(UN-People)

AFRICA:

Johannesburg - Major ANC policy conference opens in South Africa
(SAfrica-Politics, moving)

SPORT PLANNED:

FOOTBALL

Schedule for Wednesday, June 27, 1000 GMT

Puerto Ordaz , - Copa America, Group B
Venezuela Chile-Ecuador, Brazil-Mexico
(Football-CopaAmerica)

Caracas - Host Venezuela draws, Peru shocks Uruguay in Copa
America
(Football-CopaAmerica, Roundup moved)

Madrid - Real Madrid considering Drenthe as replacement for
Roberto Carlos
(Football-Spain/RealMadrid)

TENNIS
London - Wimbledon championships
(Tennis-Wimbledon)

MOTORSPORT
Magny-Cours, - Feature ahead of French Formula One
France Grand Prix
(Motorsport-F1)

BACKGROUNDERS AND BYLINERS:

London - NEWS FEATURE: Goodbye and Hello: Gordon Brown takes
centre stage as Blair bows out
(ca. 600 words/Britain-Politics, by 1200)

Prague - FEATURE: Hollywood east is once again bursting at the
seams. By Katerina Zachovalova
(700 words/Czech-Cinema, by 1500)

Amman - NEWS FEATURE: Palestinian dialogue drive gathers
momentum. By Abdul Jalil Mustafa
(440 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Saudi/Palestinians)

Belgrade - ANALYSIS: Russia keen to regain its Balkan influence
By Thomas Brey
(570 words/Balkans-Diplomacy/Russia)

Berlin - What the Nazis planned beneath Devil's Mountain
By Clive Freeman
(500 words/Germany-Wars/History)

Sydney - PREVIEW: All quiet as East Timor seeks new leader.
By Sid Astbury
(687 words/ETimor-Elections)

Cairo - ANALYSIS: Saudi King, Mubarak insist on "Palestinian
unity". By Pakinam Amer
(935 words/Mideast-Politics/Egypt)

Buenos Aires - PREVIEW: Brazil-Venezuela dispute marks Mercosur
summit
without Chavez. By Veronica Sardon
(648 words/LatAmerica-
Trade/Mercosur/Brazil/Venezuela)

Washington - ROUNDUP: Republican senator breaks ranks on Iraq.
By Tony Czuczka
(569 words/Iraq-Conflicts/US/Politics/pvs cycle)

Schedule for Wednesday, June 27, 1000 GMT

dpa-SPECIALS:

Hamburg - Greater risk for young and older motorists
By Reino Gevers
(490 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Munich - Faulty bulbs should be replaced in pairs
(185 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Munich - Little technology transfer from Formula 1 to ordinary cars. By Felix Rehwald
(545 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Berlin - Low-rev driving saves fuel
(80 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Stuttgart/ - Mini Mercedes SUV coming in 2008
Kitzbuehel (330 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Hamburg - Germans love a snack behind the wheel
(197 words/dpa-SPECIAL/Cars)

Jun 2707 0959 GMT

Load-Date: June 28, 2007

End of Document



CORRECTION (eca074): Brussels forbids Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 9:52 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 105 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Aviation Ireland CORRECTION (eca074): Brussels forbids Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus
Corrects formally to formerly in lead Brussels
EU Commission regulators ruled Wednesday that
budget airline Ryanair would not be allowed to take over its Irish
rival, Aer Lingus, formerly owned by the state.

The deal would limit competition on the route as the two airlines
combined would control more than 80 percent of all European flights
to and from Dublin airport, the European Commission said.

The EU Commission made its ruling Wednesday after a seven-month
investigation into competition on the route.

Jun 27 07 0952 GMT

Notes

Corrects formally to formerly in lead

Load-Date: June 28, 2007



EXTRA: Brussels forbids Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2007 Wednesday 9:47 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 96 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE EU Aviation Ireland EXTRA: Brussels forbids Ryanair takeover of Aer Lingus Brussels
EU Commission regulators ruled Wednesday that
budget airline Ryanair would not be allowed to take over its Irish
rival, Aer Lingus, formally owned by the state.

The deal would limit competition on the route as the two airlines
combined would control more than 80 percent of all European flights
to and from Dublin airport, the European Commission said.

The EU Commission made its ruling Wednesday after a seven-month
investigation into competition on the route.

Jun 27 07 0947 GMT

Load-Date: June 28, 2007

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 5, 2007 Tuesday 11:43 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 364 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth
Dublin/London

Irish budget airline Ryanair Tuesday announced record annual profits, lifted by higher ticket prices and extra charges, of 401.4 million euros (542 million dollars) in the 12 months to the end of March.

However, the airline warned that after the 33-per-cent jump in profits in the last financial year, growth was expected to slow by about 5 per cent in the current financial year.

The news sent Ryanair's shares almost 6 per cent lower, as Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary named higher airport taxes and duties on passengers for the slowdown.

He urged shareholders to remain "cautious and conservative" and accused the British government of "highway robbery" for doubling passenger taxes in February.

He said that "swingeing price increases imposed at London's Stansted airport, Ryanair's main base, where costs had doubled since April," and higher air passenger duty (APD) were having a negative impact on demand.

Despite the growing costs O'Leary predicted that Ryanair would "lead and win every fare war in Europe."

He also singled out Ireland's Dublin airport for criticism, saying that "unjustified price increases" there - as in Stansted - coincided with substandard service and facilities.

Despite the problems, Ryanair had benefited from its decision to start charging customers for every bag they check in, and for services such as priority boarding.

ROUNDUP: Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth

Ryanair said its average fare per customer rose by 7 per cent over the last financial year, while its total traffic figure climbed by 22 per cent to 42.5 million passengers.

The airline said its load factor - a measure of how well airlines are filling planes - dropped by 1 per cent in the year to 82 per cent and had fallen further in recent months.

Ryanair, which placed an order for 27 new Boeing aircraft last week, said it was confident that traffic would grow to more than 52 million people in the current financial year.

But while vowing to continue its "price war" in the face of growing opposition from other budget airlines, chiefly easyJet, O'Leary said: "This remains an extremely volatile and cyclical business."

Jun 0507 1143 GMT

Load-Date: June 6, 2007

End of Document



Schedule for Tuesday, June 5, 1400 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 5, 2007 Tuesday 2:11 PM EST

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Length: 397 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1400 Schedule for Tuesday, June 5, 1400 GMT

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) CorkTel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519
(1900-0300 GMT) WashingtonTel: 001-202-662-1241Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165Fax: 671-3169

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Prague- Bush says Russia is not enemy after Putin's tough
remarks
(550 words/Czech-Diplomacy/US/Russia)

Paris - French Open
(Tennis-French, by 1700 GMT)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

Tokyo - Nikkei hits above 18,000, tracking US market rise
(135 words/Japan-Markets)

Sydney- Eight dead in Australian train crash
(170 words/Australia-Accidents)

Madrid- Basque separatists ETA end ceasefire - attack
"imminent" (670 words/Spain-Terrorism)

- Zapatero seeks party unity after ETA ends ceasefire
(660 words/Spain-Terrorism)

Luxembourg- EU ends deficit procedures against Germany, Greece,
Malta (425 words/EU-Economy)

Shanghai- Chinese stocks rebound after early fall

Schedule for Tuesday, June 5, 1400 GMT

(250 words/China-Markets)

Bangkok - Laos welcomes arrest of Hmong rebels in US
(590 words/Laos-Politics/Crime/US)

Nairobi - Kenyan police kill at least 21 suspected gang members
(308 words/Kenya-Crime)

Sydney- Ten dead in Australian train crash
(206 words/Australia-Accidents/2nd roundup)

Dublin/London - Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth (380 words/Ireland-Aviation)

London- Film of "last pictures" of Diana to be shown in Britain
(500 words/Britain-Royalty)

Ramallah- Abbas marks 40 years of occupation, warns of "civil war" (740 words/Mideast-Conflicts)

Islamabad - German minister: No end in sight for Afghan engagement
(490 words/Pakistan-Conflicts/Afghan/Germany)

SPORT MOVED:

FOOTBALL

Madrid- FEATURE: Debate in Spain about putting words to national anthem. By Duncan Shaw
(457 words/Football-Spain)

TENNIS

Paris - PREVIEW: Nadal stands in the path of Moya's Paris re-run dream
(515 words/Tennis-French/NadalMoya)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS PLANNED:

Rome- PREVIEW: Bush in "frosty" visit to Italy amid security concerns. By Nicholas Rigillo
(715 words/Italy-Diplomacy/US, after 0205 Wednesday)

Berlin- FEATURE: Two decades since Reagan said Tear down this wall" in Berlin. By Clive Freeman
(700 words/Germany-Conflicts/BerlinWall)

Jun 0507 1411 GMT

Load-Date: June 6, 2007



Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 5, 2007 Tuesday 6:50 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 149 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair posts record profits but warns of slowing growth Dublin/London
Irish budget airline Ryanair Tuesday
announced record annual profits, lifted by higher ticket prices and
extra charges, of 401.4 million euros (542 million dollars) in the
12 months to the end of March, the airline said.

However, Ryanair warned that profit growth would slow in the
current year.

The company said that it expected profit growth to slow to about 5
per cent in the current financial year, and urged shareholders to
remain "cautious and conservative."

Ryanair's chief executive Michael O'Leary told BBC Radio Tuesday
that a number of factors had combined to slow earnings growth.

He said that "swingeing price increases imposed at London's
Stansted airport, where costs had doubled since April," and higher
air passenger duty (APD) were having a negative impact on demand.
Jun 0507 0650 GMT

Load-Date: June 6, 2007



Ryanair to increase fleet by new Boeing planes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 31, 2007 Thursday 10:31 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 90 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair to increase fleet by new Boeing planes Dublin/London
Irish budget airline Ryanair said Thursday
it was buying 27 new Boeing aircraft in an order worth nearly 1
billion pounds (2 billion dollars).

The purchase of Boeing 737-800s, to be delivered in 2009-10, will
increase Ryanair's fleet to 262 by 2012.

Ryanair said the planes would be fitted with fuel-burn reducing
and carbon dioxide-reducing features that would strengthen its
position as "Europe's cheapest, greenest and cleanest airline."
May 3107 1031 GMT

Load-Date: May 31, 2007

End of Document



ROUNDUP:City of Derry airport in Northern Ireland to remain closed

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2007 Friday 5:50 PM EST

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Length: 202 words

Dateline: Belfast/London

Body

DPA x Nireland Transport ROUNDUP:City of Derry airport in Northern Ireland to remain closed
Belfast/London

Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

Friday ordered the continued closure of the airport of Derry, in Northern Ireland, on safety grounds.

A statement by the CAA in London, released after talks with the Derry airport management, said the airport would remain closed until a full audit was carried out.

The aerodrome would not re-open until next week. Earlier, the airport management said it hoped that the "exceptional decision" to suspend flights could be "reversed."

Flight operations at the airport were suspended at midnight Thursday.

Among faults listed by Britain's airport regulator were poor runway drainage, a lack of effective bird control and unsuitable repairs to a section where planes are parked, according to a CAA inspection report.

The airport is partly funded by the Irish Republic.

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair cancelled all flights to the airport which serves Northern Ireland's second largest city of Londonderry in the north-west of the province and county Donegal in the Republic of Ireland.

British Airways (BA) has diverted its flights to Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital.

May 2507 1750 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2007

ROUNDUP:City of Derry airport in Northern Ireland to remain closed

End of Document



Ryanair involved in 60 per cent of complaints to Irish regulator

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2007 Friday 9:45 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 136 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair involved in 60 per cent of complaints to Irish regulator Dublin

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair accounted for 60 per cent of complaints to Ireland's Commission for Aviation Regulation, The Irish Times reported Friday.

Complaints about flight cancellations and delays at Irish airports were much higher for Ryanair than any other airline, figures from the commission showed.

Another Irish carrier, Aer Lingus, topped the list of complaints for those being denied the right to get on a plane, the report said.

Some 36 per cent of flights leaving Dublin airport in 2006 were operated by Ryanair, while Aer Lingus was responsible for 33 per cent of flights.

A spokesman for the commission said that in a significant number of cases, the airlines compensated passengers.

May 2507 0945 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2007



City of Derry airport in Northern Ireland closed over safety issues

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 25, 2007 Friday 8:15 AM EST

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Length: 178 words

Dateline: Belfast/London

Body

DPA x Nireland Transport City of Derry airport in Northern Ireland closed over safety issues
Belfast/London

Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)

has ordered the temporary suspension of flight operations from the
city of Derry in Northern Ireland, the airport has confirmed.

A statement from airport management in Derry said operations were
suspended at midnight Thursday, but immediate talks would be held
with the CAA to "reverse the exceptional step."

The talks were due to be held in London Friday.

Among faults listed by Britain's airport regulator were poor
runway drainage, a lack of effective bird control and unsuitable
repairs to a section where planes are parked, according to a CAA
inspection report.

The airport is partly funded by the Irish Republic.

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair cancelled all flights to the
airport which serves Northern Ireland's second largest city of
Londonderry in the north-west of the province and county Donegal in
the Republic of Ireland.

British Airways (BA) has diverted its flights to Belfast, Northern
Ireland's capital.

May 2507 0815 GMT

Load-Date: May 26, 2007



Budapest airport welcomes new Ryanair flight decision

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 17, 2007 Thursday 1:32 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 225 words

Dateline: Budapest

Body

DPA FINANCE Hungary Aviation Budapest airport welcomes new Ryanair flight decision Budapest
The head of Budapest Airport on Thursday welcomed
a decision by Irish budget carrier Ryanair to begin flights between
Hungary's capital and Britain.

"This is wonderful news," Stewart Wingate, the head of Budapest
Airport, said in a statement. "It shows the growth potential in the
Hungarian market."

Ryanair will operate four flights a week between Budapest and
Nottingham from October 31, adding to services it already operates
between Lake Balaton, one of Hungary's biggest tourist attractions,
and London.

Budapest Airport, the company that operates Ferihegy International
Airport, was privatized in December 2005.

Britain's BAA bought the airport. However, Spain's Ferrioal took
over the British company and this month sold Budapest Airport to
Germany's Hochtief for 1.9 billion euros.

The airport is one of the busiest in Central and Eastern Europe,
and this week announced it had handled over 700,000 passengers in
April, a 4.6 per cent increase on the previous year.

Both BAA and Hochtief promised to develop the airport into a major
regional hub, and Wingate said this work would continue.

"We are further working to bring more airlines, flights and
travellers to Budapest and to make Budapest Airport Central Europe's
most successful airport," he said.

May 1707 1332 GMT

Budapest airport welcomes new Ryanair flight decision

Load-Date: May 18, 2007

End of Document



Emergency landing in Cologne after passenger makes bomb joke

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 28, 2007 Wednesday 1:01 PM EST

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Length: 181 words

Dateline: Cologne

Body

DPA x Germany Crime Transport Poland Emergency landing in Cologne after passenger makes bomb joke Cologne
A Ryanair jet made a non-scheduled landing in the
German city of Cologne during the night after a Polish passenger
pretended to have a bomb in his carry-on luggage, German police said
Wednesday.

The plane was flying from Luebeck, northern Germany, to Stansted
near London. The passenger, 22, had refused to switch off his
cellphone when asked to do so by the man seated next to him, and then
claimed he had a bomb.

The Irish plane was over Dutch territory at this time. Its pilot
issued an emergency radio call and diverted to Cologne, Germany.

Police arrested the passenger when the plane touched down shortly
before midnight, but found no bomb in his luggage. He was slightly
drunk and insisted he had been joking. Police freed him on bail on
the condition that he immediately return to Poland.

The jet resumed its journey after 2 hours on the ground. Police
said the passenger would be summoned later to answer German charges
of breaching the peace by threatening a crime.
Feb 2807 1301 GMT

Load-Date: March 1, 2007



Ryanair profits soar in last quarter of 2006

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 5, 2007 Monday 8:39 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 160 words

Dateline: London/Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Aviation Ryanair profits soar in last quarter of 2006 London/Dublin
Budget airline Ryanair Monday reported a
steep 30-per cent rise in quarterly profits as passenger numbers
increased by nearly 20 per cent.

The Dublin-based carrier said net profits jumped 30 per cent in
the third quarter of 2006 to 48 million euros (94 million dollars),
as average fares, including baggage charges, rose by 7 per cent.

Passenger numbers grew by 19 per cent, with 10.3 million customers
travelling with the airline in the three months to December 31, up
from 8.6 million in the previous year.

But fuel costs rose by 52 per cent in the period to 175 million
euros. Ryanair has not introduced a fuel surcharge.

The airline, which has clearly also profited from the delays and
troubles that have hit main carrier British Airways in the past few
months, said it now expected annual net profits to soar by around 29
per cent to 390 million euros.

Feb 0507 0839 GMT

Load-Date: February 6, 2007



British government attacks airlines over emission curbs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 5, 2007 Friday 12:32 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 292 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Transport Aviation Emissions British government attacks airlines over emission curbs
London

The British Labour government Friday launched an unusually strong attack on major airlines for refusing to take climate change seriously.

Writing in the Guardian newspaper, Ian Pearson, state secretary for the environment, described the attitude of major American airlines to carbon emission reduction as "a disgrace."

Pearson stated that national carrier British Airways was "only just about playing ball" in the fight to reduce carbon emissions, and expressed anger at the refusal by Germany's Lufthansa airline to accept market-based curbs.

But the state secretary, who is attached to the Ministry of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), reserved his strongest criticism for budget-carrier Ryanair, which he described as the "irresponsible face of capitalism."

Pearson said he regards the predicted growth in airlines' carbon emissions such a threat to the government's plans to cut emissions by 60 per cent by 2050 that he still wants the European Union to go further - and faster - to include airline emissions in its carbon trading scheme.

Before Christmas, the European Union (EU) proposed to include all flights within Europe in the carbon trading scheme from 2011.

A year later, the scope would be expanded to cover all international flights that arrive at or depart from an EU airport. Foreign airlines from outside the EU would also be included.

Irish-based Ryanair is among the airlines who have vowed to

British government attacks airlines over emission curbs

boycott the scheme.

Its flamboyant chief executive, Michael O'Leary, Friday hit back at Pearson, describing him as "foolish and ill-informed" and maintaining that Ryanair was "Europe's greenest airline."

Jan 0507 1232 GMT

Load-Date: January 6, 2007

End of Document



Easyjet cancels flights from Bristol over "slippery" runway

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 5, 2007 Friday 11:05 AM EST

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Length: 286 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Britain Transport Aviation Easyjet cancels flights from Bristol over "slippery" runway London
British budget airline Easyjet Friday cancelled 18
flights at Bristol airport in south-west Britain after safety
concerns over a new runway, the airline said.

The no-frills carrier said it was concerned about the ability of
its planes to brake in wet weather after resurfacing work on the
runway at the airport.

"The runway conditions are slick at present and we are not
confident we can land our aircraft in wet weather without skidding,"
an Easyjet spokeswoman said.

Other airlines, including British Airways and Ryanair, have not
cancelled departures from Bristol. The airport has confirmed the
Easyjet cancellations, but declined to comment on the reasons given
by the airline.

Easyjet serves a number of regional destinations in Britain from
Bristol but also flies from there to cities in western and central
Europe, including Spain, France, Poland and the Czech Republic.

Easyjet said the decision to cancel the flights had been
taken after extensive discussions with Bristol Airport and with the
Civil Aviation Authority.

Bristol International Airport undertook runway resurfacing plans
worth 17 million pounds (33 million dollars) last October.

In December, a plane operated by Aurigny, an airline based on the
Channel island of Guernsey, with 52 passengers on board, ended up in
the safety zone at the end of the runway after landing at Bristol.

An Easyjet flight from Malaga in Spain also recently strayed onto
the safety area at Bristol while taxiing.

Easyjet cancels flights from Bristol over "slippery" runway

"At the moment the forecast is for more drizzle, so a decision on further cancellations will be made later on," said an Easyjet spokeswoman.

Jan 0507 1105 GMT

Load-Date: January 6, 2007

End of Document



INTERVIEW: Lufthansa low-cost airline posts profit - plans expansion

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 29, 2006 Friday 2:05 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 785 words

Byline: Leon Mangasarian, dpa

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Business Aviation INTERVIEW: Lufthansa low-cost airline posts profit - plans expansion Leon Mangasarian, dpa Berlin
Lufthansa's low-cost airline Germanwings is gearing up for further expansion after posting its first profit just four years after beginning operations, says Germanwings CEO Thomas Winkelmann.

"Germanwings has just had the best year in its history," said an ebullient Winkelmann over a lunch of wiener schnitzel at Berlin's Cafe Einstein, a popular meeting place for movers and shakers in the German capital.

Germanwings - which began operating in 2002 - is set to make a profit this year, said Winkelmann who declined to reveal any figures.

Turnover rose to almost 560 million euros (737 million dollars) in 2006, compared with 400 million euros in the previous year, the company says.

The number of passengers flown this year increased to 7.1 million, up from 5.5 million in 2005.

Germanwings currently has 24 Airbus A319 and A320 aircraft. The number of jets will expand to 27 in 2007 and all remaining A320s will be retired. The airline hopes to enlarge its fleet to around 40 aircraft by 2009.

"Size matters but there are plenty of airlines in the world that went belly up because they grew too fast," said Winkelmann, who is 47 and lived for 10 years in the US where he studied at Harvard University and served as Lufthansa's chief of the Americas.

Germanwings will fly to 56 destinations in Europe in 2007. Its

INTERVIEW: Lufthansa low-cost airline posts profit - plans expansion

German hubs are Cologne/Bonn, Berlin, Stuttgart and Hamburg.

The airline shuns using cheaper, out-of-the-way airports favoured by rivals such as Ryanair in part because they are not accepted by business travellers who are a key Germanwings customer group.

Winkelmann predicts all European flights not taking off or landing at long-haul hubs will be based on the low-cost model in the coming years.

Germanwings is the low-cost brand in the Lufthansa group. Air France/KLM are starting a low-cost carrier and British Airways - "which does a superb job on long-haul flights" - is moving out of the regional business, he said.

Winkelmann cautions that many low-cost airlines lack the capital for long-term survival.

"Most low-cost airlines are losing money," he said, adding: "Almost all the low-cost smalls will disappear."

He declined to say which airlines would likely go bust but praised four airlines for setting global innovation benchmarks: jetBlue, Southwest Airlines, Air Canada and his own Lufthansa.

"What we promise is on time flights, security and Lufthansa-trained pilots," said Winkelmann, adding that Germanwings had on-time performance of over 84 per cent for the past year.

Despite being low-cost, Winkelmann said the most important thing was to make the Germanwings brand an iron-clad guarantee of good service in order to expand into new markets.

To boost reliability, Germanwings always keeps one A319 aircraft in reserve in case a scheduled plane needs to be withdrawn from service, he said.

The airline also invests heavily in customer service representatives who are always reachable for free via email and for a modest fee on the phone.

"Successful low-cost airlines will develop into virtual travel department stores," said Winkelmann, who has both German and American citizenship and alternates easily between speaking English and German.

"If you have a trusted brand and products of value the customer will buy everything from you: hotel rooms, car rentals, insurance, you name it," he said.

Winkelmann said the Germanwings website had 56 million hits alone in the year 2006. "For a company which did not exist four years ago that's amazing."

Asked what he thought about plans by some airlines to allow mobile phone use, Winkelmann grimaced.

"For me that would be a nightmare. Flying is one of the safe havens where you can have an hour or two for reading without being disturbed," said Winkelmann who lists reading along with running and biking as his main hobbies.

INTERVIEW: Lufthansa low-cost airline posts profit - plans expansion

"I really fear it will fuel cases of air rage," he said, adding that Germanwings will keep its ban on mobile phone use.

Looking at new markets, Winkelmann said in addition to expanding into eastern Europe, Germanwings is closely monitoring the situation in European countries where state-owned carriers are losing money.

Publicly subsidised airlines continue to hinder growth of low-cost competition, he noted.

"State airlines in Italy and Greece have never made money and won't do so in our lifetimes," he said.

A further hindrance to low-cost airlines is the lack of a unified European air traffic control system.

"Hundreds of separate control centres mean a huge waste of jet fuel and time. This is bad for the environment and bad for our customers," said Winkelmann.

Dec 29 06 0205 GMT

Load-Date: December 29, 2006

End of Document



European Commission investigating Ryanair bid for Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 20, 2006 Wednesday 7:17 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 195 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Transport EU European Commission investigating Ryanair bid for Aer Lingus Brussels
The European Commission announced Wednesday a detailed investigation into the planned hostile takeover by the low-cost carrier Ryanair of the Irish flag carrier Aer Lingus.

It said an initial market investigation indicated that the proposed 1.48-billion-euro (1.9-billion-dollar) acquisition would raise serious competition concerns and could reduce choice for consumers and give rise to higher fares.

The EU said a package of remedies proposed by Ryanair in November to preserve competition was not sufficient. Ryanair submitted a substantially improved remedy proposal at a late stage but more time was needed to analyse this.

The commission now has 90 working days until May 11, 2007 to take a final decision.

Ryanair is a budget airline operating across 24 European countries. One of its airport bases is Dublin.

Aer Lingus is an Irish carrier, which has recently introduced features of a low-cost, low-fares airline model, while retaining some elements of the traditional airline model. Ryanair has already obtained a significant part of its shares.

Dec 2006 1917 GMT

Load-Date: December 21, 2006



Lufthansa sues small airport, alleges subsidies to Ryanair

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 15, 2006 Friday 3:30 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 244 words

Dateline: Bad Kreuznach, Germany

Body

DPAFINANCEGermanyTransportJusticeLufthansa sues small airport, alleges subsidies to RyanairBad Kreuznach, Germany

German airline Lufthansa has sued

the small rural airport at Hahn, west of Frankfurt, alleging it subsidised operations by budget airline Ryanair, a court spokesman said Friday.

The suit demands that Ireland-based Ryanair restore 2.7 million euros (3.5 million dollars) in alleged illegal subsidies to the airport company, which bills the airstrip in hills more than an hour's drive from the city as one of Frankfurt's airports.

Lufthansa contends the airport failed to charge Ryanair that sum in 2003, the court spokesman in the city of Bad Kreuznach said. Hahn, formerly a military airstrip, is Ryanair's German hub.

The bigger airline is also demanding disclosure of what marketing aid was provided between 2002 and 2005 by Flughafen Frankfurt-Hahn, the airport company, to Ryanair. It demands that any future subsidies be cleared by the European Commission in Brussels.

The airport said in a statement that it was confident it would succeed in the case, which it described as really being a legal assault on Ryanair.

A trade body representing German airlines, the BDF, has brought a complaint on the same grounds before the European Commission. The airport company said the Commission had already asked it for comment.

Lufthansa said it had brought the Hahn case to avoid any expiry at the end of this year of claims with respect to 2002.

Dec 15061530 GMT

Lufthansa sues small airport, alleges subsidies to Ryanair

Load-Date: December 16, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair extends takeover offer for Aer Lingus to December 22

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 5, 2006 Tuesday 9:47 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 95 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPAFINANCEIrelandBusinessAviationRyanair extends takeover offer for Aer Lingus to December 22London
Europe's largest budget airline Ryanair has
extended its 1.48-billion-euro (1.97-billion-dollar) takeover offer
for Irish carrier Aer Lingus until December 22, Ryanair reported
Tuesday in London.

As of the expiry of the previous offer on Monday, Ryanair said
that shareholders owning under 1 per cent of the shares had accepted
its offer.

Ryanair currently holds directly and indirectly more than 25 per
cent of Aer Lingus shares. It seeks more than 50 per cent.

Dec 05060947 GMT

Load-Date: December 6, 2006



Latvian government defies Competition Council over airport fees

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 4, 2006 Monday 2:17 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 318 words

Dateline: Riga

Body

DPAFINANCELatviaBusinessAviationLatvian government defies Competition Council over airport feesRiga
A Latvian government committee decided on Monday to keep a system of tax breaks at Riga airport unchanged, despite a ruling from the Competition Council that the system is unlawful.

The airport should reach agreement with airlines unhappy over its discount system, rather than risking a legal challenge, committee members said.

Riga airport operates a sliding scale of tax discounts for airlines. The discount is assessed by the number of passengers carried, with two carriers - low-cost titan Ryanair and Latvian national airline Air Baltic - receiving an 80 per cent discount.

But six other airlines, including British Airways, KLM and Lufthansa, lodged a complaint with the competition council in 2005, alleging that the system amounted to an illegal subsidy.

On 22 November, the council ruled that the system created "differing costs for competing airlines on the same routes... which create unequal competition conditions between airlines," and ordered the airport to abolish it within 90 days.

The decision was harshly criticised by transport minister Ainars Slesers, the initiator of the discount system. He accused the council of "threatening the (air transport) sector's further development" and vowed to have the decision challenged in court.

"No council is going to stop my plans for making Riga the biggest airport in the region," he told the Telegraf daily on Monday.

The airport has until 22 December to launch a challenge. Slesers said the airport "would be told" to do so, the Leta news agency reported - a move which the government's decision seems to confirm.

Latvian government defies Competition Council over airport fees

Air traffic has boomed in Latvia since the country joined the EU in 2004. Riga Airport has seen passenger numbers treble since then, and has frequently been described as a potentially major hub for flights between the EU and CIS.

Dec 04061417 GMT

Load-Date: December 5, 2006

End of Document



Latvian Competition Council rejects "unfair" airport fees

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 23, 2006 Thursday 12:31 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 405 words

Dateline: Riga

Body

DPA FINANCE Latvia Business Aviation Latvian Competition Council rejects "unfair" airport fees Riga
The Latvian Competition Council has ruled that a system of discounts operated by Riga International Airport is unfair, a press release announced on Thursday.

The council, which met on Wednesday, found that the airport's system of tax breaks showed signs of "malicious use of its dominant position" and ordered it to cancel the discount system. The airport has 90 days to comply.

According to the airport's current graded system of discounts, airlines which handle more than 250,000 passengers per year in Riga qualify for an 80 per cent discount on their departure fees. The system was introduced in early 2005.

Two airlines - national carrier Air Baltic and low-cost giant Ryanair - qualified for the maximum discount. However, six other airlines, including British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa and CSA Czech Airlines, then launched a protest, claiming the system effectively made them subsidise their rivals.

"The discount system doesn't promote honest competition - it's not fair on those who can't bring in such large numbers," CSA spokesman Roberts Zabello told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

It is not yet clear what effect the decision will have on the airport's operations. Riga airport has enjoyed spectacular growth in recent years, with passenger numbers trebling since 2003.

The growth has been largely attributed to the arrival of low-cost operators Ryanair and EasyJet, and the strong performance of Air Baltic itself.

The Latvian airline recorded a 40-per-cent annual increase in

Latvian Competition Council rejects "unfair" airport fees

passenger numbers in the first 10 months of 2006. In 2005, the airline's full-year passenger numbers grew almost 50 per cent.

Senior figures including the prime minister have called on all parties to find a solution which would allow the airport to continue its rapid development.

However, the council's ruling could also have political repercussions. The discount system was introduced by transport minister Ainars Slesers, leader of a junior party in Latvia's current four-party ruling coalition.

During election campaigns this October, Slesers presented himself as the man who "brought Ryanair to Riga." The council's decision is being seen in some quarters as a blow to his prestige.

"We have not yet received the full text of the decision. We will decide what to do once we have analysed it," Slesers' advisor Lauris Dripe told dpa.

Nov 2306 1231 GMT

Load-Date: November 24, 2006

End of Document



Aer Lingus employee-shareholders reject Ryanair takeover bid

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 22, 2006 Wednesday 6:15 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 275 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Aer Lingus employee-shareholders reject Ryanair takeover bid Dublin Employees of Irish airline Aer Lingus who own shares in the company voted overwhelmingly Wednesday against a hostile takeover bid by fellow Irish carrier Ryanair, dealing a major blow to Ryanair's chances of acquiring its rival.

Members of the Employee Share Ownership Trust (ESOT), comprising current and former employees with a 12-per-cent share in Aer Lingus, voted by a majority of 97 per cent to reject Ryanair offer's of 2.80 cents per share.

The votes were counted Wednesday, nearly three weeks after ballot papers were sent to ESOT members on November 3.

Nearly 70 per cent of ESOT members, or 3224 people, took part in the ballot.

The two major trade unions in Aer Lingus, IMPACT and SIPTU, welcomed the outcome of the ballot, saying they believed an independent Aer Lingus better served the interests of the company and customers.

In late September, the Irish government floated Aer Lingus on the Dublin and London stock markets at a price of 2.20 euros per share, which valued the airline then at 1.13 billion euros.

In a surprise move, Ryanair on October 5 launched a takeover bid for the company of 1.48 billion euros, or 2.80 cents per share, an offer judged conservative by analysts.

By now, Ryanair has built up a stake of at least 19.2 per cent, but the anti-Ryanair camp now own 46.6 per cent of Aer Lingus stock, making it virtually impossible for Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary to get a majority stake of more than 50 per cent.

Aer Lingus employee-shareholders reject Ryanair takeover bid

Aer Lingus shares closed at 2.65 euros on the Irish Stock Exchange Wednesday.

Nov 2206 1815 GMT

Load-Date: November 23, 2006

End of Document



Latvian competition council to decide on "unfair" airport taxes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 22, 2006 Wednesday 9:56 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 461 words

Dateline: Riga

Body

DPA FINANCE Latvia Business Aviation Latvian competition council to decide on "unfair" airport taxes Riga
The Latvian Competition Council, an independent watchdog, is set to decide on Wednesday on allegations of unfair charging structures at Riga International Airport.

"Six airlines have protested that two companies receive disproportionately low discounts (at the airport). The Competition Council is examining the case for possible unfair practices," spokesman Maris Gorbunovs told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

Riga airport - the fastest-growing airport in the Baltic region - offers airlines a sliding scale of discounts based on the number of passengers they bring in per year.

Currently, two airlines - low-cost giant Ryanair and Latvian national carrier Air Baltic - bring in more than 250,000 passengers per year, and thus qualify for an 80 per cent discount.

But six other airlines, including British Airways, KLM, Lufthansa and CSA Czech Airlines, have challenged the policy. They claim that the 80 per cent discount means that the two largest airlines are effectively being subsidised by smaller rivals.

"The discount system doesn't promote honest competition - it's not fair on those who can't bring in such large numbers," CSA spokesman Roberts Zabello told dpa.

Officials at the Latvian Transport Ministry - which initiated the policy - claim that the system is entirely fair.

"The discount system is based on passenger numbers, not the names of airlines. (The six airlines) have as many planes as Ryanair - if they flew as many people here as Ryanair do, they'd get the same treatment," said Arnis Muiznieks, head of aviation at the ministry.

Latvian competition council to decide on "unfair" airport taxes

The stakes are high. Riga airport has enjoyed explosive growth since Latvia joined the EU in 2004, with the number of incoming passengers more than trebling in three years.

And the airport - tipped as a future base of operations for Ryanair - has ambitious expansion plans including the construction of new hotels, offices and a major conference centre.

The case also threatens to have a major political impact. The discount system was initiated by Transport Minister Ainars Slesers, a self-made millionaire who has since presented himself as the man who brought Ryanair to Riga.

Slesers has been widely reported as saying that he will ask for the Competition Council to be fired if they decide that the discount system is unfair - a comment which itself has aroused widespread criticism.

"It's madness for the transport minister to try and get involved in the work of an independent institution. Of course, it creates a very negative effect," economist Alf Vanags told the Diena newspaper.

The Competition Council should reach its decision on Wednesday and publish it "soon thereafter," Gorbunovs said.

Nov 2206 0956 GMT

Load-Date: November 23, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Rome airport reopens after false bomb alert

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 21, 2006 Tuesday 9:49 AM EST

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Length: 143 words

Dateline: Rome

Body

DPA x Italy Terrorism ROUNDUP: Rome airport reopens after false bomb alert Rome
Rome's Ciampino airport reopened to air traffic on
Tuesday after it was shut down briefly because of a bomb alert that
turned out to be false, Sky Italia television reported.

The airport remained closed for just over 90 minutes while bomb
disposal officers inspected cargo planes parked on its runways.

Incoming flights were diverted to the city's main Fiumicino
airport while departing flights were delayed, prompting long queues
at its check-ins.

The alert had been prompted by an anonymous caller, who phoned
fire fighters shortly after 8 am to say there was a bomb aboard a
cargo plane.

Ciampino airport, which is located about 30 kilometres south of
the Italian capital, hosts military and private planes and low-cost
carriers such as Easyjet and Ryanair.

Nov 2106 0949 GMT

Load-Date: November 22, 2006



Prosecutors check near-miss charge against German fighter pilot

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 7, 2006 Tuesday 11:57 AM EST

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Length: 204 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA x Germany Transport Accidents Justice Prosecutors check near-miss charge against German fighter pilot Frankfurt

Both prosecutors and air investigators said Tuesday they were checking out allegations that a German Air Force fighter jet flew dangerously close to a Ryanair passenger plane over Germany.

A woman passenger on the airliner, which was carrying about 170 passengers on October 16, told prosecutors the Tornado fighter dived past at a distance of just 100 metres, while the air force says the planes were 750 metres apart.

Prosecutors in Bad Kreuznach said they had begun a formal inquiry into causing personal injury, but had not named a suspect yet.

The Irish budget-airline plane was on its landing approach to Hahn airport, west of Frankfurt, on a flight from Pisa, Italy. Its pilot reported the suspected near miss after landing.

Air traffic control in the Frankfurt region said the distance between the jets, as indicated by radar, was 350 metres. German federal accident investigators are already studying the case and expect to issue a report in early December.

Witnesses said two Tornado planes had flown above the Ryanair plane, with one suddenly diving "quite close" to the passenger jet.

Nov 0706 1157 GMT

Load-Date: November 8, 2006



Ryanair profits forge ahead to half-year record

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 6, 2006 Monday 7:42 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 113 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Aviation Ryanair profits forge ahead to half-year record London
Irish budget airline Ryanair Monday reported a rise
of 38 per cent to 372 million euros (472 million dollars) in the six
months to the end of September.

The half-year record profits came despite higher costs following a
terror alert at British airports in August over US-bound flights.

Despite the growth, Ryanair would push ahead with plans to sue the
British government over losses incurred during the alert, Ryanair
chief executive Michael O'Leary said Monday.

He also confirmed that Ryanair would proceed with controversial
plans to take over rival Irish airline Aer Lingus.

Nov 0606 0742 GMT

Load-Date: November 7, 2006

End of Document



Aer Lingus again rejects "ill-conceived" Ryanair bid

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 3, 2006 Friday 2:26 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 264 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Aer Lingus again rejects "ill-conceived" Ryanair bid Dublin Irish national carrier Aer Lingus said Friday it is still rejecting low-fare airline Ryanair's takeover bid offer of 2.80 euros per shares.

The Dublin-based airline said the offer - first made when Ryanair announced its 1.48 billion euro (1.9 billion dollar) takeover aims on October 5 - was clearly below value, as well as being poorly conceived, contradictory and uncompetitive.

The Aer Lingus statement came as meanwhile Ryanair reported a strong year-on-year rise in passenger numbers for October.

It said it carried 3.731 million passengers in the month, compared with 3.025 million in October 2005.

In late September, the Irish government floated Aer Lingus on the Dublin and London stock markets at a price of 2.20 euros per share, which valued the airline then at 1.13 billion euros.

Ryanair immediately acquired a 16.1 per cent stake and said it was seeking to boost its holding further.

But the Irish government retained a blocking 25 per cent minority stake in Aer Lingus and has made clear since then that it would keep its holding in order to maintain competition in Ireland's aviation market.

Irish unions are also opposed to the takeover, fearing the loss of jobs at Aer Lingus, while a company representing Aer Lingus pilots has also increased its stake in the airline in order to help thwart Ryanair.

Aer Lingus and Ryanair combined account for over 70 per cent of

Aer Lingus again rejects "ill-conceived" Ryanair bid

Ireland's short-haul market.

Aer Lingus shares were trading at 2.87 euros at mid-day Friday.

Nov 0306 1426 GMT

Load-Date: November 4, 2006

End of Document



Tiger set to add destinations in India, Sri Lanka

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 2, 2006 Thursday 1:34 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 229 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

DPA FINANCE Singapore Business Aviation Tiger set to add destinations in India, Sri Lanka Singapore Tiger Airlines is seeking to fly to five destinations in India and one in Sri Lanka after receiving approval from Singapore authorities, the budget carrier said Thursday.

Among the cities are exotic Goa on India's west coast, the commercial centre Kozhikode in the state of Kerala, Kolkata (Calcutta), Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Colombo in Sri Lanka.

"We have filed the necessary applications with the authorities in India and Sri Lanka and hope to progressively add the six new points to our network from next year," The Straits Times quoted chief executive Tony Davis as saying.

By the end of 2007, Tiger expects to have a fleet of 12 Airbus single-aisle planes and to fly to 21 points out of Singapore.

The carrier is a partnership between Singapore Airlines, state investment arm Temasek Holdings, the founders of Irish low-cost airline Ryanair and US-based marketing consultants Indigo Partners.

Tiger's foray into India comes as competitor Jetstar Asia is scaling back flights to Bangalore after dropping Kolkata six months ago and adding flights to Indonesia.

"We have had flights to Kolkata for some time, but we wanted to go into India in a meaningful way with multiple destinations instead of launching an isolated point," Davis told the newspaper.

Nov 0206 0134 GMT

Load-Date: November 2, 2006

Tiger set to add destinations in India , Sri Lanka

End of Document



Calendar of events in November 2006

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 1, 2006 Wednesday 12:00 AM EST

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Length: 673 words

Body

DPA v dpa EVENTS November = Calendar of events in November 2006
Following is a calendar of events scheduled for November 2006:

- 1 - Regional elections in Catalonia.
- 1 - Japan to extend special antiterrorism law by another year.
- 2 - Continuation in Germany of Mannesmann court case against Deutsche Bank boss and five others.
- 2 - Verdict on compensation case brought by Serbs over NATO air strike during Kosovo war.
- 2 - European Central Bank meeting in Frankfurt.
- 2 - German unemployment figures.
- 2-3 - ASEAN Committee on Women meeting in Singapore.
- 3 - US unemployment rate.
- 3 - Ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Forum in Beijing.
- 3-6 - Taipei International Travel Fair.
- 4-5 - Iberian-American summit in Uruguay.
- 4-5 - Leaders' summit of the China-Africa Forum.
- 5 - Nicaragua presidential and parliamentary elections.
- 5 - New York City marathon - Lance Armstrong running.
- 5 - China Textile and Apparel Fair (CTAF) in Germany.
- 6 - Eurogroup meeting, Brussels.

Calendar of events in November 2006

- 6 - Presidential elections in Tadjikistan.
- 6-9 - Executive council of World Health Organization meets in Geneva to elect new general secretary.
- 6 - Ryanair half-year results, Dublin.
- 6-7 - Socialist International meets in Chile.
- 6-17 - UN Climate Change Conference in Nairobi.
- 7 - US Congressional elections.
- 7 - Australia's Melbourne Cup.
- 7 - Meeting of EU finance and budget ministers (ECOFIN) in Brussels.
- 8 - EU Commission to present report on Turkey and Croatia's progress towards EU entry.
- 9 - Mexico's president-elect Felipe Calderon visits US President Bush at White House.
- 9 -17 Anniversary of fall of Berlin Wall.
- 9-10 - Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov visits Beijing.
- 10 - Conference of European Central Bank members.
- 10 - Allianz 3rd quarter figures.
- 12 - South Ossetia, breakaway region from Georgia, votes on independence. Also presidential elections.
- 12-17 - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) ministerial meetings in Hanoi.
- 13-14 - EU foreign and defence ministers meet in Brussels.
- 13-15 - Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammed Khan to visit New Delhi for India-Pakistan peace talks.
- 14-22 - US President Bush visits Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and Hawaii.
- 14 - ZEW investor confidence survey, Germany.
- 14 - German 3rd quarter GDP figures.
- 15 - US federal court extradition hearing for Polish-American businessman Edward Mazur.
- 15 - British parliament session to be officially opened by Queen Elizabeth.
- 16 - France's Socialist Party to choose candidate for presidential elections.
- 16 - US inflation rate for October.
- 17 - European Banking Congress in Frankfurt.

Calendar of events in November 2006

17 - UN's Food & Agriculture Organization conference in Rome.

17-19 - APEC Summit in Hanoi. US President Bush to visit.

18 - Tom Cruise & Katie Holmes to marry in Italy.

18 - Two-day international conference on reconstruction and development of Afghanistan in New Delhi.

19 - Parliamentary elections in Mauritania.

20 - Chinese President Hu Jintao to start India visit.

20 - US Index of leading economic indicators.

20-23 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth II visits Uganda.

22 - Dutch parliamentary elections.

23 - ifo business sentiment outlook.

23 - Meeting in Vienna of governing council of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - Iran likely to be on agenda.

23-25 - Commonwealth heads of state meet in Kampala.

24 - EU-Russia summit, Helsinki

26 - Runoff in Ecuador presidential elections.

26 - Second round of parliamentary elections in Mauritania.

26-28 - India Economic Summit 2006 in New Delhi.

27 - EU-Canada Summit in Tampere, Finland.

27-28 - Euromed meeting in Tampere, Finland.

27-29- Taipei International Motorcycle Industrial Show.

27-29 - NATO summit in Riga, Latvia. US President Bush to attend; also to visit Estonia.

28 - Japan's Antarctic expedition to depart from Tokyo port.

28 - US consumer confidence.

28-29 - NATO summit in Riga.

29 - US gross domestic product, 3rd quarter, second estimate.

End of November (date tbc) - EUFOR pulls out of Democratic Republic of Congo.

Nov 0106 0000 GMT

Load-Date: November 1, 2006



Ryanair pilot says fighter jet came dangerously close

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 20, 2006 Friday 10:36 AM EST

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Length: 179 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA x Germany Transport Accidents Ryanair pilot says fighter jet came dangerously close Frankfurt
Germany's DFS air traffic control agency said
Friday it was looking into a complaint that a fighter jet came
dangerously close to a plane flown by the budget airline Ryanair
over Germany.

An initial inquiry showed that the Tornado jet came "quite close"
to the Ryanair plane as it was approaching Hahn airport west of
Frankfurt on Monday, then flew away and landed at the German Air
Force's Noervenich Air Base.

DFS spokesman Axel Raab said it was still not clear how close the
two planes had come, but the pilot of the Ryanair flight from Pisa,
Italy, obviously regarded it as "dangerous" since he filed a report
after landing.

The inquiry showed two Tornado planes had flown above the Ryanair
plane, with one suddenly diving "quite close" to the passenger plane.
He did not confirm that the fighter jets were Germany, but the German
Air Force said it had begun an inquiry of its own.

German newspapers said 170 people were aboard the Ryanair plane at
the time.

Oct 2006 1036 GMT

Load-Date: October 21, 2006



ROUNDUP: Ryanair launches takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 5, 2006 Thursday 3:09 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 429 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair launches takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus Dublin

The Irish government said Thursday it would not sell its 25-per-cent share in national carrier Aer Lingus after low-cost airline Ryanair launched a 1.48-billion-euro (1.88-billion-dollar) takeover bid for the company.

"The government remains fully committed to competition in the aviation market and will not be selling its shares in Aer Lingus," Prime Minister Bertie Ahern told a parliament shocked by the news.

Ahern described the Ryanair bid as "unexpected," while Transport Minister Martin Cullen said Ryanair's move was not welcome and that he would await a decision on the matter by the Irish Competition Authority.

Both SIPTU and Impact, the two largest trade unions at Aer Lingus said they were opposed to the proposed takeover.

"The union believes that an independent stand-alone Aer Lingus is in the best interests of the company, the country, passengers and staff," IMPACT said, citing "clearly significant competition issues" in the bid that would create a quasi monopoly on passenger air travel in and out of Ireland.

Aer Lingus and Ryanair account for over 70 per cent of Ireland's short-haul market.

Announcing the bid, Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said the move represented a "unique opportunity to form one strong airline group for Ireland and for European consumers," with combined passengers of over 50 million.

Ryanair had already acquired a 16-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus

ROUNDUP: Ryanair launches takeover bid for Irish carrier Aer Lingus

since its flotation last week on the Dublin and London stock markets, he said.

Ryanair's cash offer of 2.80 euros per share for the rest of the airline's shares values the company at 1.48 billion euros.

That offer is conditional on it acquiring at least a majority of 50.1 per cent of shares in Aer Lingus, O' Leary said.

The Ryanair chief said both companies would continue to operate separately, would "compete vigorously" on the few routes both companies serve and that the Aer Lingus brand would remain in place.

He also pledged to "expand, enhance and upgrade the Aer Lingus operations" and to leave in situ any union arrangements in place at Aer Lingus.

Ryanair itself refuses to negotiate with unions and conducts direct negotiations with staff.

Several opposition parties on Thursday blasted the government for leaving Aer Lingus open to a hostile takeover by privatizing it.

In Dublin, Aer Lingus shares soared 13.9 per cent by Thursday noon to 2.88 euros while Ryanair shares, after an initial dip, rallied to 8.85 euros, up 1.7 per cent.

Oct 0506 1509 GMT

Load-Date: October 6, 2006

End of Document



Schedule for Thursday, October 5, 1400 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 5, 2006 Thursday 1:59 PM EST

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Length: 734 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1400 Schedule for Thursday, October 5, 1400 GMT

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) Cork Tel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 671-3169

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Paris - ECB raises rates one-quarter point
(Europe-Economy/Rates, by 1600)

Berlin - Airbus reorganization to take months, top
EADS official says
(Europe-Business/Aerospace, by 1500)

Ankara - German Chancellor Merkel begins 2-day
visit to Turkey (Turkey-Diplomacy/Germany, by 1800)

Jerusalem - US Secretary of State Rice winds up Mideast
diplomacy tour (Mideast-Diplomacy/US, by 1700)

Dublin - Low-fare airline Ryanair sets sights on
Aer Lingus (Ireland-Business/Aviation, by 1700)

Baghdad - Six killed in further violence, government
denies top al-Qaeda leader killed
(Iraq-Conflicts, by 1500)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

Tokyo - Nikkei ends at five-month high on US market's rises
(130 words/Japan-Markets)

Schedule for Thursday, October 5, 1400 GMT

Kabul - NATO's mission expands to cover all of Afghanistan
(420 words/Afghan-Conflicts/NATO)

Jakarta - Indonesia delays plans to divert mudflow into river
(560 words/Indonesia-Accidents/Mudflow)

Srinagar - At least 10 people killed in battle in Indian Kashmir
(370 words/India-Conflicts/Kashmir)

Zamboanga City- Philippines detains Indonesian wife of wanted JI
Philippines militant (355 words/Philippine-Terrorism)

London - Muslim police officer excused from Israeli
embassy guard (500 words/Britain-Society/Police)

Islamabad - Army defuses rockets found in front of Pakistan
parliament (210 words/Pakistan-Terrorism)

Berlin - German parties settle differences over health reform
(575 words/Germany-Politics/Health)

SPORT MOVED:

FOOTBALL

Hamburg - GENERAL PREVIEW: Italy anxious for win to revive Euro
2008 fortunes. By Ronald Freeman
(770 words/Football-Euro)

Rome - PREVIEW: ITALY-UKRAINE: Italy can't afford to slip up
against Ukraine. By Alberto Cagliano
(460 words/Football-Euro/Italy/Ukraine)

London - PREVIEW: ENGLAND-MACEDONIA: England looking for win
against Macedonia. By Jonathan Wilson
(450 words/Football-Euro/England/Macedonia)

Berlin - PREVIEW: GERMANY-GEORGIA: Germany set to ring the
changes for Georgia test. By Arne Richter
(490 words/Football-Germany/Georgia/Friendly)

MOTORSPORT

Suzuka, - PREVIEW: Stage set for title show-down
Japan By Jens Marx
(580 words/Motorsport-F1)

TENNIS

Tokyo - ROUNDUP: Federer produces polished performance to
advance in Japan. By Bill Scott
(430 words/Tennis-ATP-WTA/Japan)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDEERS PLANNED:

Vienna - FEATURE: Vienna starts campaign against dog waste
By Ivonne Marschall
(565 words/Austria-Curiosity/Dogs, after 0205 Friday)

Amsterdam - FEATURE: Dutch mother causes outrage, leaving kids
for TV reality show. By Rohan Minogue
(380 words/Dutch-Society, after 0205)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDEERS MOVED:

Schedule for Thursday, October 5, 1400 GMT

Lusaka - NEWS FEATURE: Mwanawasa urges Zambian unity to
rebuild country. By Fred Chela
(690 words/Zambia-Politics)

Nairobi - NEWS FEATURE: Aging Kenyan rebels seek redress from
Britain. By Tia Goldenberg
(565 words/Kenya-Politics/Britain)

The Hague - NEWS FEATURE: Armenian genocide haunts Dutch-Turkish
politicians. By Rohan Minogue
(740 words/Dutch-Politics/Turkey)

Frankfurt - FEATURE: Frankfurt Book Fair a bazaar for Indian
publishers. By Juergen Hein
(590 words/Germany-Business/BookFair)

Paris - NEWS FEATURE: France's troubled suburbs become a
"reality show" By Siegfried Morkowitz
(755 words/France-Politics/Crime/Media)

Taipei - FEATURE: Chinese gay rights activists encouraged
after Taiwan visit. By David Chang
(850 words/Taiwan/Society/China/Gay)

Washington - NEWS FEATURE: Sex scandal may cost Bush's party
critical votes. By Tony Czuczka
(770 words/US-Elections/Scandal)

Los Angeles - FEATURE: Toys to spoil toddlers and tycoons.
By Andy Goldberg
(740 words/US-Society)

Johannesburg - FEATURE: Desmond Tutu continues to offer moral
guidance. By Benita van Eyssen
(675 words/SAfrica-People/Tutu)

Oct 0506 1359 GMT

Load-Date: October 6, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair announces bid of nearly 1.5 billion euros for Aer Lingus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 5, 2006 Thursday 7:53 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 192 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair announces bid of nearly 1.5 billion euros for Aer Lingus Dublin

Low-cost Irish airline Ryanair on Thursday announced a 1.48-billion-euro (1.88-billion-dollar) takeover bid for

Irish national carrier Aer Lingus, which was listed on the Dublin and London stock markets last week.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said the move represented a "unique opportunity to form one strong airline group for Ireland and for European consumers," with combined passengers of over 50 million.

Ryanair said it had already acquired a 16-per-cent stake in Aer Lingus since its flotation.

Ryanair's cash offer of 2.80 euros per share for the rest of the airline's shares values the company at 1.48 billion.

O'Leary said both companies would continue to operate separately and "compete vigorously" on the few routes both companies serve.

He also pledged to "expand, enhance and upgrade the Aer Lingus operations."

Ryanair has also pledged to retain the Aer Lingus brand and all the profitable routes currently operated by the airline.

The Irish government still owns around 30 per cent of Aer Lingus.
Oct 0506 0753 GMT

Load-Date: October 6, 2006

Ryanair announces bid of nearly 1.5 billion euros for Aer Lingus

End of Document



More budget airlines fly to Poland as market soars

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 13, 2006 Wednesday 4:15 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 232 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

DPA FINANCE Poland Business Aviation More budget airlines fly to Poland as market soars Warsaw Britain's Jet2 and Denmark's Sterling are the newest budget carriers to begin flights to Poland where the air travel market is soaring, Poland's Rzeczpospolita daily reported Wednesday.

In October, Jet2 will begin two flights a week to and from Leeds and Newcastle to Krakow, while Denmark's Sterling will link Copenhagen with the historic and scenic Polish city, which has become a hit with foreign tourists.

Budget airlines are flocking to the Polish market which is projected to grow to 63.8 million passengers by 2030 from the 14.3 million total estimated for 2006, according to the report.

Budget carriers operating flights to Poland include Centralwings, Blue1, Easyjet, Germanwings, Jet2, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sterling and Wizzair.

The carriers fly into 11 Polish airports scattered across the country of nearly 40 million citizens. Most have chosen the capital Warsaw and the southern city of Krakow as their ports of call.

Traffic has picked up significantly since Poland's entry into the European Union in 2004, with tens of thousands of Poles using cheap flights to fly in search of work in the UK or Ireland.

Tourist traffic to Poland is also growing with a 6.4 per cent rise to 15.2 million foreign visitors to Poland from 2004 to 2005, according to Economy Ministry figures.

Sep 1306 1615 GMT

Load-Date: September 14, 2006

More budget airlines fly to Poland as market soars

End of Document



Mobile phone conversations take to the air

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 12, 2006 Tuesday 3:31 AM EST

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Length: 266 words

Body

DPA x dpa SPECIAL Travel Mobile phone conversations take to the air
Dublin (dpa) - Passengers on Ryanair will soon be able to call
their friends from the air using their own phone.

Next year, the Dublin-based airline plans to install 50 machines
that receive and transmit signals on planes. Starting in 2008, the
company's entire fleet of Boeing 737s should be fitted with the
devices. Costs for the phone calls will be set by international
roaming standards and charged to mobile phone bills.

Air France announced in April that it will start using new Airbus
A318s in 2007 that allow passengers to use their own mobile phones
without disturbing the plane's navigation instruments. Between March
and September 2008, passengers will get to try out the service on
some European and North African routes. Just like Ryanair, passengers
will not be limited to using their mobile phones for making calls,
scanning the web and sending text messages. They will also be able to
use laptops or smart phones.

The final decision on whether Ryanair passengers will be able to
use their mobile phones in the clouds is still up to certain
government agencies. "A rewrite of Germany's Aircraft Electronics
Operations Authorization is being considered," said Cornelia Cramer,
spokeswoman for the German Federal Air Traffic Agency. For now, using
mobile phones on board German airplanes remains forbidden.

The Swiss company OnAir is the technical partner for the mobile
service with both Ryanair and Air France. If implemented, the mobile
conversations will be routed through satellites and ground
transmitters.

Sep 12 06 0331 GMT

Load-Date: September 13, 2006



Regulators reject Vienna-Bratislava airport merger

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 12, 2006 Tuesday 3:10 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 421 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

DPA FINANCE Slovakia Business Aviation Austria Regulators reject Vienna-Bratislava airport merger Bratislava

Slovakia's anti-monopoly watchdog rejected

Tuesday a proposed takeover of the country's largest airports by a group led by the Vienna airport authority.

The decision by the Slovak Anti-monopoly Office (PMU) was expected but was quickly criticized by officials with the TwoOne consortium, which had offered about 20 billion koruna (676 million dollars) for the state-owned airports in Bratislava and Kosice.

The decision will be appealed and claims of foreign-investor cheating may be filed in international courts against the Slovak government, said Jozef Oravkin of TwoOne's Slovak partner, Penta Investments.

Oravkin also raised "a cause of concern" over whether PMU maintained political independence while studying the merger plan.

TwoOne - which includes Vienna airport operator Flughafen Wien, Austria's Raiffeisen bank, and Penta - won a government tender for the Slovak airports in February, outbidding a competing offer from a group led by Spain's Albertis Infrastructures.

However, the sale and all other privatization projects were frozen a few weeks later pending a June election.

The election led to a change in government, and new Prime Minister Robert Fico declared an end to all privatizations including the airports deal.

Fico formally halted the sale in August while PMU, an independent regulator, continued analyzing the TwoOne proposal based on its impact on the airline market.

Regulators reject Vienna - Bratislava airport merger

Tuesday's ruling by PMU declared that the deal would eliminate the "effective competition" between the Bratislava and Vienna airports, which are about 50 kilometres apart.

"In this case, the horizontal concentration of two airports in immediate proximity would develop into a reduction for the market structure, leading to the creation of a regional monopoly," the PMU ruling said.

PMU based its decision on an analysis of regional flights and passenger loads at each airport.

Vienna's airport is served by nearly 60 airlines, while Bratislava's field handles about 20 airlines.

Among the biggest airlines in Bratislava are the Slovak low-cost carrier SkyEurope and the Irish budget airline Ryanair, which had opposed the TwoOne deal. A competing budget carrier, Germanwings, serves Vienna.

TwoOne claimed that a Vienna-Bratislava merger would make sense for airlines and consumers. The group had promised to invest heavily in both Slovak airports and build a rail link between the Bratislava and Vienna facilities.

Sep 1206 1510 GMT

Load-Date: September 13, 2006

End of Document



Malta opens its doors to low-cost airlines

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 4, 2006 Monday 2:01 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 206 words

Dateline: Valletta

Body

DPA FINANCE Malta Business Aviation Malta opens its doors to low-cost airlines Valletta
The Maltese government Monday gave two major low-cost airlines, Ryanair and Easy Jet, the go-ahead to operate new routes to the Mediterranean island.

Accepting incentives worth some 2.3 million euros (3 million dollars) a year to operate year-round services, Ryanair will within eight weeks be offering a daily service to Malta from London's Luton airport and a thrice-weekly flight from Pisa, Italy.

Ryanair, which expects to bring about 87,000 tourists to Malta every year, will also operate a thrice-weekly flight from Dublin as from next February.

Easy Jet will start daily flights from Luton and five-weekly flights from Switzerland.

The move follows pressure from the island's hoteliers and tour operators as well as calls on Tourism Minister Francis Zammit Dimech to resign in the wake of a 10-year-low decline in tourism figures.

The Maltese government had been reluctant to introduce low-cost airlines because of fears they would badly affect the national carrier, Air Malta, as well as major airlines operating to the island such as Lufthansa, Alitalia and British Airways.

Around 1.1 million tourists visit Malta every year.

Sep 0406 1401 GMT

Load-Date: September 5, 2006

Malta opens its doors to low-cost airlines

End of Document



Ryanair to sue British government over increased airport security

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 25, 2006 Friday 12:53 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 281 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Terrorism Aviation Ryanair to sue British government over increased airport security
London

Irish low-fare airline Ryanair said Friday it will
sue the British government for 3.3 million pounds (4.9 million euros)
because of delays and cancellations resulting from increased airport
security.

Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary, said the claim
represents losses from cancellations and lost bookings over the week
of August 10-16.

"The purpose of this claim is to encourage the Department for
Transport to restore UK airport security to the effective
International Air Transport Association (IATA) norm, and to prevent
similar breakdowns at UK airports during future security scares by
putting in the necessary police and army personnel to carry out the
extra security checks whenever the Government decides to double or
quadruple them again, without notice," he said.

O'Leary said the no-frills carrier's "sole motive in this action
is to defeat terrorism by returning airport security to normal" and
that any compensation awarded would be given to Orbis, a charity
working to eliminate avoidable blindness in the developing world.

He described the additional security measures at British airports
as "nonsensical and ineffective" and added they are "handing the
extremists an undeserved and unnecessary victory."

On August 10, the British authorities announced they had foiled a
terrorist plot aimed at blowing up planes bound from Britain to the
US over the Atlantic. Since then heightened security measures have
been in place at British airports.

Eleven suspects appeared before a London court Tuesday on charges

Ryanair to sue British government over increased airport security

of involvement in the alleged plot.

Aug 2506 1253 GMT

Load-Date: August 26, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Ryanair gives ultimatum to London over security steps

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 18, 2006 Friday 1:30 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 401 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism Aviation ROUNDUP: Ryanair gives ultimatum to London over security steps
London

Irish low-fare airline Ryanair issued an ultimatum to the British government Friday giving London seven days to restore airport security measures to normal levels or else face claims for compensation.

The demand was sent to Transport Secretary Douglas Alexander, with Ryanair saying that if it were met then it would "not make any claim for compensation which it is entitled to under the provision of section 93 of the Transport Act 2000."

The airline had complained of massive losses resulting from costly flight cancellations and delays, particularly at the main hub of its operations, Stansted Airport, as a result of the extensive new security checks imposed in the wake of a terror air bombing plot.

"The best way to defeat terrorists and extremists is for ordinary people to continue to live their lives as normal," said Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary.

"Because of the additional security restrictions imposed by the government last thursday, the shambles at the London airports has been anything but normal," he added.

O'Leary cited how London had "successfully led the return to normality" of London's Underground after the July 7, 2005 terrorist attacks.

"It is important that they now restore security at the London airports to normality and remove some of these nonsensical, and (from a security perspective) totally ineffective restrictions which were introduced last week," he said, warning that otherwise, the government would "have handed the extremists an enormous PR victory."

ROUNDUP: Ryanair gives ultimatum to London over security steps

In specific terms, Ryanair was requesting a return to previous regulations on the size of hand luggage and reducing the number of passenger body searches back to the previous one-in-four, instead of the current one-in-two.

The airline said that it wanted Alexander's assurances that if in future the government ordered a quadrupling of body searches, then police and army reserves would be put on duty to help out.

"This will at least allow the increased security to be carried out, in an emergency, without the disruptions, delays and cancellations that have characterised the chaos at London airports over the past week," the airline said.

Signs of support came earlier Friday when officials at Virgin Atlantic Airways said that the airline was talking with BAA about possible compensation.

Aug 1806 1330 GMT

Load-Date: August 19, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair mulls legal action against London over security steps

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 18, 2006 Friday 8:39 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 237 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism Aviation Ryanair mulls legal action against London over security steps
London

Budget airline Ryanair was preparing Friday to
unveil plans for a possible lawsuit against the British government to
recoup losses from the new anti-terrorist security steps at airports.

Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary, angered by his airline
having had to cancel dozens of flights during the security crisis
last week, has targeted the new baggage rules which he called
"nonsensical."

Reports in London said it was believed Ryanair was seeking to
enlist the backing of other airlines in getting compensation.

A few days earlier, Ryanair had in particular targeted airport
operator BAA for inadequate staffing, especially at Stansted airport,
to handle the extra security precautions, while even suggesting that
the British army or police be called in to help.

On its website, Ryanair carried a statement saying "we continue to
call on the UK Government to lead the process of returning normality
to London's airports by addressing the root causes of the problems.

"If the Government insists on doubling the number of security
checks, then they must send in extra army or police personnel to help
the BAA to carry out these checks," the statement said.

Signs of support came Friday when officials at Virgin Atlantic
Airways said that the airline was talking with BAA about possible
compensation.

Aug 1806 0839 GMT

Load-Date: August 19, 2006

Ryanair mulls legal action against London over security steps

End of Document



Schedule for Friday, August 18, 1400 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 18, 2006 Friday 1:56 PM EST

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Length: 677 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1400 Schedule for Friday, August 18, 1400 GMT

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) Cork Tel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 671-3169

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Tel Aviv/ - Lebanese troops continue deploying in southern
Beirut Lebanon
(Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon, by 1600)

New York - UN continues talks on troop commitments for Lebanon
(Mideast-Conflicts/UN)

Washington - Bush to appeal federal court ruling that wire-tapping
programme illegal
(US-Terrorism/Justice)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

The Hague - Bluetongue disease found in Dutch sheep; export ban
(250 words/Dutch-Health/Nature)

London - Ryanair gives ultimatum to London over security steps
(410 words/Britain-Terrorism/Aviation)

New York - UN obtains initial troop commitments for Lebanon
force. By JT Nguyen
(880 words/Mideast-Conflicts/UN/2ND ROUNDUP)

Tokyo - Tokyo stocks close higher as US shares advance
(120 word/Japan-Markets)

Schedule for Friday, August 18, 1400 GMT

Manila - Oil still leaking from sunken tanker in central Philippines (700 words/Philippine-Accidents)

New York - Ford studying more job cuts, plant closing to stem losses (350 words/US-Automotive)

Budapest - Hungary may not adopt euro until 2014-2016
By Michael Logan (675 words/Hungary-Economy)

Warsaw - Walesa threatens to give up Gdansk citizenship over Grass (710 words/Poland-Culture/Germany/Grass)

Ramallah - Israeli army kills two Palestinian militants by Bethlehem (236 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Palestinians)

London - Ryanair gives ultimatum to London over security steps (370 words/Britain-Terrorism/Aviation)

The Hague - Bluetongue disease found in Dutch sheep; export ban (240 words/Dutch-Health/Nature)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

Cincinnati, - ATP Masters Series quarter-finals
Ohio (Tennis-ATP/US)

FOOTBALL

M'gladbach, - Borussia Moenchengladbach-Nuremberg Bundesliga match
Germany (Football-Germany)

ATHLETICS

Zurich - The world's most famous one-day athletics meet,
The Weltklasse stop of the Golden League series
(Athletics-Swiss)

SPORT MOVED:

FOOTBALL

London - Ferguson confirms Hargreaves interest
(350 words/Football-England/Germany/ROUNDUP moved)

BASKETBALL

Hiroshima - PREVIEW: Team USA look for redemption, Argentina for next title. By Wallace B. Wheaton
(840 words/Basketball-Worlds)

TENNIS

Cincinnati - ROUNDUP: Murray wins after running on empty, will face Roddick. By Bill Scott
(Tennis-ATP/US)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS PLANNED:

Tallinn - FEATURE: Tiny Estonian minority challenges Russia, EU
By Ben Nimmo
(550 words/Estonia-Society/Minorities/after 0205 Saturday)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS MOVED:

Schedule for Friday, August 18, 1400 GMT

Berlin - FEATURE: Get on your stilettos, get set - for Berlin
high-heel race. By Ernest Gill
(500 words/Germany-Arts/Curiosity)

Shebaa, - NEWS FEATURE: Shebaa happy to receive deploying
Lebanon troops in south. By Weedah Hamzah
(555 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon)

Washington - FEATURE: Clinton turns 60: Second wind
with the Stones. By Laszlo Trankovits
(820 words/US-Politics/People)

Toronto - FEATURE: Voices of HIV-positive were missing
at their own conference. By Anindita Ramaswamy
(890 words/World-Health/AIDS)

Madrid - FEATURE: Rolling Stones' fans in Spain can't get no
satisfaction. By Hubert Kahl
(405 words/Spain-Entertain/Stones)

Berlin - FEATURE: Controversial Berlin exhibition sparks
polish ire. By Clive Freeman
(990 words/Germany-Culture/Poland)

Warsaw - NEWS FEATURE: Polish workers queue around the block
for Irish jobs. By Mary Sibierski
(640 words/Poland-Labour/Ireland)

Aug 1806 1356 GMT

Load-Date: August 19, 2006

End of Document



Airlines mull claims over stricter security at British airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 17, 2006 Thursday 9:35 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 247 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Terrorism Aviation Airlines mull claims over stricter security at British airports London

Airlines using British airports are considering suing the government for up to 300 million pounds (570 million

dollars) to recover losses incurred since extra security measures were imposed last week, the Times reported Thursday.

The British daily said the airlines were hoping the threat of legal action would force a lifting of restrictions on hand luggage that had caused serious delays.

Airlines have cancelled hundreds of flights and been forced to provide hotel accommodation for thousands of passengers as a result of the delays caused by a terrorism scare that began a week ago.

According to the Times, budget airline Ryanair is behind the legal action.

It has sent an e-mail to other airlines saying it intended to use British legislation "to put pressure on the government to remove some of the illogical and unworkable restrictions at airports that are leading to large-scale disruptions and flight cancellations."

A British Airways spokesman told the Times company lawyers were looking into the matter.

Easyjet said it was looking into whether there was a case against BAA, the company that operates Britain's main airports, or against the government.

The British Air Transport Association (BATA), which represents 13 British airlines, has called on the Transport Ministry to restore the hand luggage regulations in force before the terrorist scare.

Aug 1706 0935 GMT

Airlines mull claims over stricter security at British airports

Load-Date: August 18, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Air Berlin buys DBA as airline sector faces shakeout

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 17, 2006 Thursday 9:33 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 506 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Business Aviation ROUNDUP: Air Berlin buys DBA as airline sector faces shakeout Berlin

Shares in budget airline Air Berlin Plc surged 6.9 per cent Thursday after Germany's second biggest carrier announced that it had acquired rival DBA as consolidation pressures grow in the country's intensely competitive aviation business.

While the details of the purchase price were not revealed, Air Berlin said that it would pay a "mid double-digit million euro" amount for the Munich-based DBA as part of moves to expand the number of its routes and boost passenger numbers.

"Acquiring our dream partner was an opportunity not to be missed," Air Berlin chief executive Joachim Hunold said announcing the surprise purchase, which followed weeks of secret talks.

The announcement led to Air Berlin shares jumping to 10.58 euros (13.60 dollars) in early morning trading and consequently helped to push the group's stock back up to its back up towards its May issue price of 12 euros.

Air Berlin's announcement that it was buying its Munich rival is also a sign of the growing pressures for a shakeout in Germany's air travel sector with increasing competition in the aviation industry following a dramatic jump in the number of budget airlines setting up in the nation.

Germans are also the world's travel champions, resulting in major discount air carriers such as Ryanair Holdings Plc and Easyjet Plc boosting their operations in Europe's biggest economy and as a result challenging major scheduled airlines.

For Air Berlin, which currently operates 58 aircraft flying in particular to holiday destinations, the DBA purchase will mean the

ROUNDUP: Air Berlin buys DBA as airline sector faces shakeout

two combined airlines will carry about 20 million passengers this year.

Moreover, with DBA having a strong focus on Germany's domestic business travel market, Berlin-based Air Berlin will be able to add lucrative corporate customers to its passenger lists.

"The route networks of Air Berlin and DBA complement each other superbly because there are no overlaps," Hunold said.

"We can integrate DBA's domestic routes in our European network without any problem, thereby achieving a clear increase in the number of business travellers using our airline."

Air Berlin said it is also expecting the deal to lead to a "significant profit" this year with the expansion of the group's business leading to it intensifying its rivalry with Lufthansa AG, Germany's number one carrier.

The DBA takeover coincides with Air Berlin saying that it had swung into a profit during the second quarter this year.

Air Berlin said it had turned last year's second-quarter loss of 4.2 million euros into a net gain of 30.1 million euros in the second quarter this year, boosted by a 22-per-cent jump in revenue to 401 million euros.

Formerly known as Deutsche BA, DBA was acquired by a management team from British Airways Plc about three years ago. Air Berlin said it would be managed as a separate operation.

However, the Air Berlin takeover of DBA still has to be approved by Germany's monopoly authorities.

Aug 1706 0933 GMT

Load-Date: August 18, 2006

End of Document



NEWS FEATURE: Business counts the costs of airline terror plot

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 16, 2006 Wednesday 2:05 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 893 words

Byline: Andrew McCathie, dpa

Dateline: Berlin

Body

DPA FINANCE Europe Terrorism Business NEWS FEATURE: Business counts the costs of airline terror plot
Andrew McCathie, dpa Berlin
As British airports struggled to return to normal after last week's dramatic terror alert, the travel and airline industries have begun counting the cost of the delays and cancellations that followed the allegations of a plot to blow up trans-Atlantic jetliners.

Almost 2,500 flights have been cancelled at London's three principal airports since last Thursday when revelations about the scheme plunged air travel in Britain into chaos and triggered a security clampdown across the global aviation sector.

The sense of upheaval which followed last Thursday's news that British police were holding more than 20 suspects in connection with the plot is estimated to have cost major British carriers alone about 475 million dollars.

While industry draws up battle plans for business travellers to cope with a new era of strict airport security, the prospects of airlines facing an additional cost burden has raised questions about the future of Europe's budget airlines, which have emerged as major competitors to scheduled carriers.

Airline shares might have pulled back from the lows they hit last week following concerns about the impact on the air travel business of new security regulations in the wake of news of the alleged plan to attack aircraft flying between Britain and the US.

But the new terror alarm and the moves to dramatically beef up airport and airline security comes at a time when the aviation business has been battling intense competition, soaring fuel prices and a recent round of scares from terrorism through to bird flu.

NEWS FEATURE: Business counts the costs of airline terror plot

In particular, this is the case as the claims that terrorists were planning to take out up to ten aircraft on the trans-Atlantic route emerged in the middle of the European summer holiday season.

The lead many airline travellers to swap to rival means of transport, such as the Eurostar between London and continental Europe.

In a radio interview, Michael O'Leary, the chief of Europe's leading budget airline, Ryanair Holdings PLC, described the fall-out from the terror scare as "almost the breakdown of the London airports."

Meanwhile, the airlines have been forced to foot the hotel bill for passengers left stranded by the security scare as well as to refund tickets and even pay compensation to travellers for cancelled flights.

Furthermore, both the airport authorities and the airlines are likely to face an increased expense of training staff to deal with the new security measures.

In the long term, analysts also say the risk for the airline business is that travellers will be put off flying by the tough security measures and the threat of long queues and more specially avoid the various airlines that appear to have become likely terrorist targets.

In the meantime, regular business travellers have been trying to weigh up the cost of the round of new security measures that are likely to place new restrictions on cabin bags and involve longer waits at check-in and for the immediate future, possibly even retrieving baggage.

British Airways plc alone is currently attempting to clear a backlog in Britain of about 20,000 checked-in pieces of luggage.

As gridlock descended on British airports the airline was forced to hire trucks to cargo baggage around Europe.

British Airways said it is now considering legal action against British airport operator BAA plc for lost earnings, estimated at about 95 million dollars.

In addition, for companies jetting their executives around the world, the extensive airport security checks and risks of enormous delays means that the period of time and consequently costs for business trips may have to be increased.

The rigorous security measures might have been eased in recent days to allow passengers using British airports to carry on to their flight hand luggage the size of a portable computer.

But apart from the added stress of trying to fly between world's biggest financial market and Europe's largest financial centre - New York and London - possible new carry-on luggage restrictions have raised questions about how laptops and mobile phones, which now form a key part of business travel, can be transported in future scares.

Already several leading companies have issued guidelines to their business travellers advising them to leave their computers at home

NEWS FEATURE: Business counts the costs of airline terror plot

rather than risk them between damaged or lost in the aircraft's hold in event of tough security measures being reintroduced.

The added problem for business is that many of the trips that their executives have to mount are arranged at the last moment and are aimed at finally securing a deal in face-to-face negotiations.

The new security measures have led to doubts about the prospects for Europe's budget airlines, which have in recent years helped to drive down the cost of air tickets.

Analysts say the network of no-frills carriers, which have emerged in recent years, could be forced to face the difficult choice in the coming years of passing any additional costs for security on to the flying public through higher fares or drastically cut their earnings.

What is more, they say the latest terror crisis has exposed the vulnerability of budget airlines, because a key part of their business is tight turnaround times between when a flight lands and when it takes off again.

Aug 1606 0205 GMT

Load-Date: August 16, 2006

End of Document



Chaos continues at British airports amid calls for army to step in

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 13, 2006 Sunday 1:17 PM EST

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Length: 278 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA x Britain Terrorism Aviation Chaos continues at British airports amid calls for army to step in London

Chaotic scenes were still in evidence at many British airports Sunday four days after the country triggered its highest terrorist alert level.

At Europe's largest airport, London Heathrow, a third of all flights were cancelled because of massive queues at check-in desks.

A spokeswoman for Heathrow said Sunday that some 500 passengers had spent the night at the airport.

Meanwhile, opposition politicians called for troops to be sent to the airports.

The troops could help with security checks and the search for explosives, Conservative Party security spokesman David Davis said.

The British Transport Ministry said it regretted the inconvenience caused to tens of thousands of travellers, but said it did not see any practical benefit in using the army.

British Airways chief executive Willie Walsh accused the airport operator British Airports Authority (BAA) of incompetence.

BAA was unable to cope with the government's increased requirements for passenger and luggage checks and new hand-luggage rules that ban people from taking liquids with them, Walsh said.

Budget airline Ryanair's chief executive Michael O'Leary criticized the extensive body searches at London's Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports which were creating such long delays that normal airline business was no longer possible.

"Ryanair and other major UK airlines cannot keep cancelling flights and disrupting the travel plans of tens of thousands of

Chaos continues at British airports amid calls for army to step in

British passengers and visitors solely because the BAA cannot cope with the new body search requirements," O'Leary said.

Aug 1306 1317 GMT

Load-Date: August 14, 2006

End of Document



Airport disruption continues in Britain amid signs of relaxation

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 11, 2006 Friday 11:46 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 290 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism Aviation Airport disruption continues in Britain amid signs of relaxation
London

The British government and major airlines said Friday they hoped air traffic would return to normal a day after the major disruptions caused by the foiled terrorist plot.

While knock-on effects, and the continued ban on hand luggage being taken on board, remained, British Airways (BA) said it hoped to get "the majority of flights away" Friday.

BA, which cancelled more than 400 flights Thursday, said it was hoping to operate 70 per cent of its short-haul services out of Heathrow, with around 120 flights likely to be cancelled.

Among them were six US flights, three of them to New York and the others to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington.

Budget airlines, which carry thousands of people off on summer holidays, remained among the worst hit.

EasyJet, which axed around 300 flights Thursday, on Friday cancelled 112 flights, saying it needed to catch up on the disruptions.

Rival Ryanair scrapped more than 30 flights to and from Stansted Airport in Essex.

EasyJet said it decided to cancel flights to destinations that passengers could, at least, get to by train.

Consequently, the airline scrapped its services from Luton, Stansted and Gatwick to destinations in Scotland, as well as to Paris, Amsterdam and Geneva.

Airport disruption continues in Britain amid signs of relaxation

Spokesman Toby Nicol said: "We could have been heroic and tried to run a full service and fallen flat on our faces. Instead we have been realistic and scrapped those services to which passengers can get to by train.

"It's been much better today. Airports have had 24 hours to get used to the new systems and passengers have been very good about arriving without hand luggage," he added.

Aug 1106 1146 GMT

Load-Date: August 12, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: After disruptions, air traffic begins to normalize

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 11, 2006 Friday 2:48 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 495 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism Aviation ROUNDUP: After disruptions, air traffic begins to normalize Adds developments in other regions London

The British government and major airlines said

Friday they hoped air traffic would return to normal a day after the major disruptions caused by the foiled terrorist plot, while

authorities in other regions reported a gradual normalization.

While knock-on effects, and the continued ban on hand luggage being taken on board, remained, British Airways (BA) said it hoped to get "the majority of flights away" Friday.

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ROUNDUP: After disruptions, air traffic begins to normalize

Spokesman Toby Nicol said: "We could have been heroic and tried to run a full service and fallen flat on our faces. Instead we have been realistic and scrapped those services to which passengers can get to by train.

"It's been much better today. Airports have had 24 hours to get used to the new systems and passengers have been very good about arriving without hand luggage," he added.

In Germany, air traffic operations gradually returned to normal on Friday, although officials said delays of several hours had affected flights to Britain and the US due to tightened security checks.

But the main carrier Lufthansa said that none of its flights on Friday had to be cancelled, after 36 flights were stricken on Thursday. The second-biggest carrier, Air Berlin, cancelled three inner-British flights, one each from London Stansted to Belfast, Manchester and Glasgow.

Meanwhile reports from other European airports reported few further disruptions. In Spain, the Iberia airline used its largest planes on the Madrid-London route in order to accommodate more passengers who had been stranded after Thursday's flight cancellations.

In Poland, operations were reported to be virtually normal again in the country's main airports, although extra security controls meant delays of up to 45 minutes in flights to British destinations, Polish radio reported.

The Polish airline LOT in the meantime adopted the new security regulations for banning any liquid or gelatinous substances in passengers' hand luggage for flights to the US.

Aug 1106 1448 GMT

Notes

Adds developments in other regions

Load-Date: August 12, 2006



EXTRA: Low-cost airlines cancels dozens of flights to, from Britain

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 11, 2006 Friday 7:32 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 148 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism EXTRA: Low-cost airlines cancels dozens of flights to, from Britain London
The low-cost airline Easyjet announced Friday that
none of its flights to Gatwick, Luton and Stansted would depart
during the day, affecting thousands of passengers.

Officials at Stansted warned travellers to prepare for another
"very difficult day" after both Easyjet and Ryanair had cancelled 59
flights in and out of the airport by 0700 GMT, Britain's Press
Association reported.

An airport spokesman said several passengers had spent the night
at Stansted in the hopes of rebooking their flight after having
failed to board a plane on Thursday.

In Amsterdam, Easyjet announced that none of its flight to
London's Gatwick, Heathrow or Stansted airports would take off
Friday, affecting up to 3,800 passengers who were asked not to go to
Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.
Aug 1106 0732 GMT

Load-Date: August 12, 2006



EXTRA: London's airports choked by travel chaos after terror alert

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 10, 2006 Thursday 5:34 PM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 240 words

Dateline: London

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism EXTRA: London's airports choked by travel chaos after terror alert London Huge queues spilled out of the check-in terminals at London's main Heathrow airport Thursday as thousands of air passengers endured a day of mounting chaos, delays and cancellations following the terror alert over US-bound flights.

Heathrow, Europe's busiest international airport, which handles 200,000 passengers a day, was worst affected, but the knock-on effect of the terrorist scare was also felt at other hubs in London and major British cities.

British Airways cancelled more than 360 flights, of a total of 650 planned Heathrow departures, as short-haul flights into Heathrow were suspended for most of the day.

Delays are expected to continue Friday, with passengers compelled to check in all hand luggage and undergo individual hand searches.

Budget airlines Easyjet and Ryanair, who were due to fly thousands of people off on summer holidays, also axed hundreds of flights.

Easyjet scrapped all flights in and out of Gatwick, Luton and Stansted airports and cancelled around 300 flights in total.

Flights were disrupted at all other British airports, although they stayed open for business.

Natalie Johnson, 36, who found her Prague-bound Easyjet flight for a hen party cancelled, said, "I am just upset because we were booked into a really nice hotel and had a good itinerary and now we can't do any of that."

Aug 1006 1734 GMT

EXTRA: London's airports choked by travel chaos after terror alert

Load-Date: August 11, 2006

End of Document



NEWS FEATURE: East-West strategy pays off for Latvian airline

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 10, 2006 Thursday 11:30 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 525 words

Byline: Ben Nimmo, dpa

Dateline: Riga

Body

DPA FINANCE Latvia Transport Aviation NEWS FEATURE: East-West strategy pays off for Latvian airline Ben Nimmo, dpa Riga

Latvian national airline AirBaltic unveiled strong growth figures for the first half of 2006 on Thursday, strengthening its position as a growing player in East-West air transit.

AirBaltic recorded a 44-per cent increase in passenger numbers, a 7-per cent rise in cabin occupancy and a 74-per cent gain in operating income compared with the first half of 2005. The airline closed the half with a profit of 984,000 lats (1.8 million dollars).

"Despite growing competition and rising costs, we have managed to both maintain growth and improve our results in all aspects of business," said the airline's president, Bertolt Flick.

The figures are seen in Latvia as a vindication of the airline's strategy. AirBaltic's aim is to position itself as a key player in transit between northern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Since Latvia joined the EU and its "Open Skies" area in May 2004, the airline has opened a second hub in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, doubled the size of its fleet, and seen passenger numbers rise from half a million to an expected 1.5 million this year.

It has also expanded its traditionally western-oriented network with flights to a series of CIS destinations such as Baku, Tbilisi, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk and Kaliningrad.

"The demand for such 'exotic' destinations as Tbilisi, Baku and Bergen is stronger now than demand for destinations like Vienna and Moscow was in 2003. This shows how much the industry has changed in Latvia," Flick commented.

NEWS FEATURE: East-West strategy pays off for Latvian airline

The figures come at a time when competition in Latvian aviation is increasing dramatically. A string of low-cost airlines, including Easyjet and Norwegian, have opened flights to Riga, and Ryanair is rumoured to be planning to open a hub there.

AirBaltic, which introduced one-way ticketing in 2003, has been forced to slash prices on key routes. Tickets for under 10 dollars one way are already available on flights to Bergen, Hamburg, Helsinki and Oslo, and the plan is to expand this low-cost model.

"Step by step, we are coming closer to a time when similar (low-cost) ticket starting prices will be introduced on all airBaltic flights," Flick commented.

The airline's decision to strengthen its eastern presence is a further reaction to increased competition within the EU. Riga is one of the union's easternmost airports, and Latvia, as a former Soviet republic, is a known brand in the CIS.

"We will certainly see more flights to more eastern cities more often. In Soviet times two million passengers a year left Latvia for the East: we may not return to that level, but there will be more than we have now," Flick said.

AirBaltic expects to carry around 1.5 million passengers in 2006 and to open at least four more flights by the end of the year. Despite the rapid growth, however, Flick is careful to point out its limitations.

"Our strength is flights between regional centres. We have some longer flights within Europe, and there will be more, but we have no plans for long-haul, intercontinental flights," he told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

Aug 1006 1130 GMT

Load-Date: August 11, 2006

End of Document



Airline shares drop as European stocks fall

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 10, 2006 Thursday 9:09 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 281 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

DPA FINANCE Britain Terrorism Business Airline shares drop as European stocks fall Frankfurt
The new terror scare in Britain helped to send
European stocks down Thursday as shares in airlines posted big falls.

As the revelations emerged that British officials had foiled a
plot to blow up trans-Atlantic flights in midair, shares in British
Airways Plc plunged more than five per cent in European morning
trading with Lufthansa and Air France-KLM also falling.

Europe's Stoxx 50, which reflects the performance of leading
European stocks, fell 1.8 per cent with shares in the region also hit
by a raft of disappointing corporate results and worries about the
global economic and interest rate outlook.

London's key FTSE index was down 1.6 per cent in early trading
with the Frankfurt DAX falling 2.4 per cent and the Paris bourse also
chalking up a more than one per cent drop.

While British authorities stepped up security at the nation's
airports, shares in Germany's Lufthansa fell 4.2 per cent and Air
France-KLM shares cascaded down more than two per cent.

Ryanair Holdings Plc, Europe's biggest budget airline, fell more
than three per cent.

Earlier in the day, British Airways said it was experiencing
severe delays and that it was likely that some flights would have to
be cancelled.

In the meantime, Lufthansa announced it had cancelled all its
flights to England until 2 pm (1200 GMT) when it said it hoped the
situation at Britain's airports had become clearer.

But despite the renewed terror concerns, the currency market

Airline shares drop as European stocks fall

remained relatively calm. By mid-morning the euro was trading at 1.2861 against the dollar, which was largely unchanged from previous days.

Aug 1006 0909 GMT

Load-Date: August 11, 2006

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US raises threat level, hundreds of flights cancelled to Britain

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 10, 2006 Thursday 9:45 AM EST

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Section: POLITICS

Length: 425 words

Dateline: Washington/Berlin

Body

DPA POLITICS Britain Terrorism Reaction US raises threat level, hundreds of flights cancelled to Britain Washington/Berlin

The United States upgraded its terrorist threat level Thursday and international airlines cancelled hundreds of flights to England after authorities there said they had thwarted a major terrorist plot to blow up aircraft over the Atlantic.

The US raised to "orange" the threat level for all flights and to "red" - the highest possible level - for flights arriving from Britain, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a statement Thursday.

Earlier, British authorities said they had foiled a "very significant" terrorist plot aimed at bringing down a "number of aircraft through mid-air explosions" using explosives placed in hand luggage on flights to the US, Home Secretary John Reid said Thursday.

Chertoff said that while the US believed British authorities had "significantly disrupted" the planned attack, the US could not be certain that the threat "has been entirely eliminated or the plot completely thwarted."

Scenes at Heathrow and Gatwick airports in London were described as "chaotic" as the terrorist threat in Britain was raised to "critical" - its highest level - for the first time ever and all incoming flights to Heathrow Airport were blocked, affecting thousands of people.

Heathrow Airport was not expected to reopen to traffic until around 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) because of the backlog, airport authorities said.

British Airways had suspended all short-haul flights from

US raises threat level, hundreds of flights cancelled to Britain

Heathrow, discount airline Ryanair had suspended about 100 flights and several international airlines cancelled all flights to London.

Germany's national carrier Lufthansa said it had cancelled all its flights to England until 1200 GMT and that three Lufthansa flights carrying around 3,000 passengers had had to turn back to Frankfurt, Hamburg and Dusseldorf.

In the Netherlands, passengers departing from Schiphol airport to British destinations were experiencing delays of up to five hour. National carrier KLM cancelled three of its flights to London with more cancellations expected.

In Prague, London-bound customers of Czech Airlines were warned that some flights Thursday could be cancelled while in Poland, flagship airline LOT cancelled its morning flight to Heathrow and budget airlines serving British airports followed suit.

Strict security measures were being enforced on flights to and from England.

All cabin baggage was being processed as hold baggage and no liquids were be allowed on the aircraft.

Aug 1006 0945 GMT

Load-Date: August 11, 2006

End of Document



Rival to Ryanair partly wins case against German airport

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 8, 2006 Tuesday 4:18 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 294 words

Dateline: Kiel, Germany

Body

DPA FINANCE Germany Transport Justice Rival to Ryanair partly wins case against German airport Kiel, Germany

A German airline that competes with low-cost carrier Ryanair partly won a court challenge Tuesday against the cut-rate airport fees that have been a secret of the Irish company's success.

Air Berlin had sued small Luebeck Airport, used by Ryanair to provide services to the port city of Hamburg, 70 kilometres away.

In a decision published Tuesday, a state court in Kiel ordered the airport company to disclose financial transactions that may involve subsidies to Ryanair.

Air Berlin contends that the airport, owned by the municipality of Luebeck, has not been charging Ryanair commercial rates.

A spokeswoman for the BDF association of German airlines called the ruling a blow to Ryanair's business model, which partly relies on obtaining low fees at little-known airports that are eager to drum up travel business.

It was the first such case in Germany, but the third in Europe.

In a September 2003 case, Ryanair was told to return illegal subsidies from the French airport of Strasbourg. At the start of 2004, the European Union told Ryanair to refund three-quarters of subsidies it received from Charleroi airport in Brussels, Belgium.

However, the municipality of Luebeck responded that Air Berlin had failed on five out of seven points that it took to court.

Ryanair's six routes out of Luebeck Airport, including one to Stansted airport near London, compete with other airlines' operations

Rival to Ryanair partly wins case against German airport

out of Hamburg international airport, a glossy, full-service airport conveniently sited within Hamburg's city limits.

Air Berlin says it had to terminate its own low-fare Hamburg-London service because it could not compete with Ryanair's prices.

Aug 0806 1618 GMT

Load-Date: August 9, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair announces 80-per-cent rise in quarterly profit

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 1, 2006 Tuesday 7:16 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 318 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

DPA FINANCE Ireland Business Aviation Ryanair announces 80-per-cent rise in quarterly profit Dublin Irish low-cost airline Ryanair on Tuesday in Dublin announced profits of 115.7 million euros (147.3 million dollars) for the three months to the end of June, an increase of 80 per cent on the same period last year.

Over the same period the airline carried 10.7 million passengers, representing an increase of 25 per cent on the same quarter last year.

The company's revenues rose from 404.6 million euros in April-June 2005 to 566.6 million euros this year, a rise of 40 per cent.

"The underlying causes of these stronger [quarterly] yields was primarily the presence of Easter in the quarter (and its absence from the prior year comparable), many more 'sun' destinations, the impact of competitors' fuel surcharges ... the initial impact of our baggage-charging initiative and the earlier launch of our new bases and routes," the company said in a statement.

Earlier in the year, Ryanair started charging customers 3.50 euros for each item of checked-in baggage, but passengers with hand luggage weighing up to 10 kilograms can now check in online and do not need to queue at check-in desks at the airport.

The new policy has driven down costs, which were reduced by 2 per cent over the quarter - apart from a 52-per-cent rise in fuel charges to 167.5 million euros, the company said.

Ryanair plans to increase its fleet of aircraft by 27 in the winter period, compared with 15 new aircraft in the whole of 2005, but warned that the expansion, coupled with higher-than-expected fuel prices and "price-dumping" by competitors, would mean "another very difficult winter trading period."

Ryanair announces 80-per-cent rise in quarterly profit

The company forecast that its full-year profits would increase by between 5 and 10 per cent this financial year. In the last financial year ended March 31, 2006, Ryanair reported after-tax profits of 302 million euros.

Aug 0106 0716 GMT

Load-Date: August 2, 2006

End of Document



Schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 1000 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
August 1, 2006 Tuesday 9:59 AM EST

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Length: 786 words

Body

DPA v dpa SCHEDULE 1000 Schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 1000 GMT

All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or
need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-1900 GMT) Cork Tel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519
(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 671-3169

MIDEAST:

Tel Aviv - Israel widens ground assault in Lebanon, renews air
raids
(Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon, moving)

Beirut - Iranian foreign minister in talks with Lebanese
leaders
(Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon/Iran/)

Baghdad - At least 41 killed in three Iraq attacks
(Iraq-Conflicts, moving)

Tehran/ - Reactions after Iran rejects UN Security Council
New York deadline for halt to uranium enrichment
(Iran-Nuclear/UN)

Kuala Lumpur - Islamic nations to call for immediate ceasefire at
emergency meet
(Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon/OIC)

EUROPE:

Brussels - EU foreign ministers in crisis meeting on Mideast
(Mideast-Conflicts/EU)

Berlin - German unemployment falls more than expected

Schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 1000 GMT

(Germany-Labour, 1st lead moved)

Dusseldorf - Eastern Europe helps to boost Metro's earnings
(Germany-Business/Metro)

Bonn - Profits slump at logistics group Deutsche Post
(Germany-Business/Post)

Moscow - Decision expected to confirm bankruptcy
of Russian oil firm Yukos
(Russia-Energy/Oil)

Amsterdam - Dutch telecoms provider KPN posts first-half profits
up (Dutch-Business/Telecoms, roundup moved)

Paris - Three dead after plane hits power line in France
(France-Accidents)

Dublin - Ryanair announces 80-per-cent rise in quarterly
profit (Ireland-Business/Aviation)

Warsaw - Poles mark 62nd anniversary of Warsaw uprising
(Poland-Wars)

Prague - Premier, president meet on Czech government impasse
(Czech-Politics)

Bratislava - Slovakia's Fico presents new government plan to
parliament (Slovakia-Politics)

ASIA:

Kabul - ISAF reports first deaths in southern Afghanistan
(Afghan-Conflicts/Roundup moving)

Hanoi - Chavez blasts US, capitalism in Vietnam ahead of key
trade vote (Vietnam-Diplomacy/Venezuela/)

- Chavez wishes Cuban President Castro a speedy
recovery (Vietnam-Politics/Cuba/Venezuela/)

Colombo - 18 Sri Lankan soldiers killed in mine blast on way to
battle (SriLanka-Conflicts/)

New Delhi - India, Pakistan agree to continue peace process
(India-Diplomacy/Pakistan/)

Beijing - China confirms two arrested in church demolition
(China-Religion/)

Manila - Majority of Filipinos want impeachment case against
Arroyo revived (Philippine-Politics/Impeachment/)

AMERICAS:

Havana - Cuban leader Castro undergoes emergency
intestinal surgery, hands power to brother Raul
(Cuba-Politics, 2nd roundup moved)

Washington - PROFILE: Raul Castro, a revolutionary in his
brother's shadow
(Cuba-Politics)

Schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 1000 GMT

Los Angeles - Jewish group rejects actor Gibson's apology
for anti-Jewish rant during traffic arrest
(US-People/Religion)

Mexico City - Losing candidate in Mexican presidential election
leading growing protest efforts
(Mexico-Elections/Demos)

Bogota - At least 18 dead in rebel attacks in Colombia
(Colombia-Conflicts, 2nd roundup moved)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

San Diego - WTA tournament
(Tennis-WTA/US)

SWIMMING

Budapest - European swimming championships
(Swimming-Hungary/Euro)

CYCLING

Dusseldorf - Preview of German Tour
(Cycling-Germany)

SPORT MOVED:

Carlsbad, - FEATURE: Drug-testing interruptions irk
California well-ordered Hingis. By Bill Scott
(290 words/Tennis-WTA/Doping)

BACKGROUNDERS, BYLINERS:

Beirut - NEWS FEATURE: Mideast reels under the massive
collateral damage. By Anne-Beatrice Clasmann
(410 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon)

Accra - FEATURE: West African states take steps
to quash water conflict. By Mawusi Afele
(770 words/Ghana-Society)

Riga - FEATURE: Trips of the tongue menace
multi-lingual Europeans. By Ben Nimmo
(625 words/EU-Society/Language)

No dateline - Calendar of events for August
(440 words/dpa-EVENTS/August)

Bangkok - Calendar of events in Asia for August
(210 words/dpa-EVENTS-Asia/August)

Beirut/ - Israel vows expanded ground war, diplomatic efforts
Tel Aviv continue. By Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa
(900 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon)

- Olmert: No ceasefire soon; ground war to expand
(900 words/Mideast-Conflicts/Lebanon)

Aug 0106 0959 GMT

Load-Date: August 2, 2006

Schedule for Tuesday, August 1, 1000 GMT

End of Document



Calendar of events in August 2006

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
July 31, 2006 Monday 10:06 PM EST

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Length: 600 words

Body

DPA v dpa EVENTS August Calendar of events in August 2006
Following is a calendar of events scheduled for August 2006:

- 1 - Special meeting of EU foreign ministers on Mideast crisis, Brussels
- 1 - Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso visits China
- 1 - Swiss National Day
- 1 - Deutsche Bank second-quarter results, Frankfurt
- 1 - Deutsche Post half-yearly results, Bonn
- 1 - German drugmaker Bayer second-quarter results
- 1 - Ryanair final first-quarter results, Dublin
- 1 - German unemployment figures for July
- 1 - German retail giant Metro second-quarter results
- 2 - Reserve Bank of Australia expected to announce interest-rate rise
- 2 - Japan Congress against A- and H-Bombs (Gensuikin) to hold a three-day international conference in Hiroshima
- 2 - Deutsche Boerse second-quarter results, Frankfurt
- 2 - BMW second-quarter results, Munich
- 2 - German chemical giant BASF second-quarter results
- 3 - European Central Bank rate-setting council, Frankfurt
- 3 - Munich Re second-quarter results

Calendar of events in August 2006

- 3 - Puma half-yearly results
- 3 - Continental half-yearly results
- 4 - DPA WORLD AIDS CONFERENCE PACKAGE
- 4 - US July unemployment
- 4 - Italian bank Unicredit second-quarter results
- 7 - DPA PACKAGE TO MARK FIDEL CASTRO'S 80TH BIRTHDAY
- 8 - US central bank sets interest rates
- 8 - Australian Parliament resumes
- 9 - T-Online second-quarter results, Darmstadt
- 9 - Adidas half-yearly results
- 10 - Deutsche Telekom second-quarter results
- 10 - Europe's biggest travel group TUI second-quarter results
- 10 - Court to pronounce verdict on 1993 Mumbai serial blasts in which 257 people were killed
- 11 - Allianz half-yearly results
- 11-15 - Civic groups to organize a series of demonstrations and forums in Tokyo to oppose Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni Shrine
- 12 - 45th anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall
- 12 - International Youth Day
- 13-18 - XVI International AIDS Conference, Toronto
- 13 - 80th birthday of Cuba's Fidel Castro
- 14 - German second-quarter GDP figures
- 14 - Pakistani Independence Day
- 15 - Indian Independence Day - Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's address to the nation
- 15 - Eon second-quarter results
- 15 - Biometric passports introduced in Singapore
- 15 - Japan observes 61st anniversary of the end of World War II
- 16 - US July inflation rate
- 17 - US index of leading indicators
- 17 - Indonesian Independence Day
- 17 - European Smart 1 space mission due to land on Moon

Calendar of events in August 2006

- 19 - Neo-Nazi demonstration planned in Munich

- 21 - New trial of Saddam Hussein for gassing Kurds in northern
Iraq starts in in Baghdad

- 21 - Start of prosecution case against seven accused of
Srebrenica massacre

- 21-25 - ASEAN economics ministers meet in Kuala Lumpur

- 22 - ZEW German investor-confidence survey

- 20 - 15th Water Week Conference, Stockholm

- 24 - Ifo German business-confidence survey

- 24 - Campaigning for Thailand's October 15 election kicks off

- 26 - German Economics and Technology Minister Michael Glos
travels to Malaysia and India (Until September 1)

- 29 - First anniversary of Hurricane Katrina in US

- 29 - German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrück visits India
(Until September 3)

- 30 - Japanese Olympic Committee to select Tokyo or Fukuoka -
both bidding to host the 2016 Summer Olympic Games - to
move on to international bidding process

Jul 3106 2206 GMT

Load-Date: August 1, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair cuts back services to Sweden due to tax burden

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 11, 2006 Tuesday 2:47 PM EST

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Length: 184 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

DPA x Britain Transport Aviation Sweden Ryanair cuts back services to Sweden due to tax burden
Dublin/London

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair is to cut back services to Sweden because of a proposed new flight tax, the airline announced Tuesday.

From October 28, the no-frills carrier will scrap its twice-daily service between Stockholm-Vasteras and Luton, north-east of London.

Also, on the same day, Ryanair will reduce its Malmo-Sturup service to Stansted from twice a day to once a day.

Services from Prestwick in Scotland to Gothenburg City Airport in Sweden will be reduced from five flights a week to three.

Ryanair said the Swedish Government's proposed tax would effectively add a further 30 per cent to the average cost of its fares.

"The Swedish Government is destroying low fare travel for Swedes and for those people who want to visit this beautiful country," Ryanair deputy chief executive Michael Cawley said.

"The introduction of this tax will make Swedish tourism uncompetitive when compared with cheaper alternatives in Spain, Italy and elsewhere in Europe", Cawley added.

Jul 1106 1447 GMT

Load-Date: July 12, 2006



Irish carrier Ryanair to reduce flights to Sweden over new air tax

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 11, 2006 Tuesday 2:01 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 162 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

DPA FINANCE Sweden Business Aviation Irish carrier Ryanair to reduce flights to Sweden over new air tax
Stockholm

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair said Tuesday it
would discontinue its flights to Sweden's regional Vasteras airport
and would reduce flights from two other airports, citing a newly-
approved environmental tax on air travel.

The Swedish parliament approved the tax last month, but it has yet
to come into affect pending a review by the European Commission.

However, due to its upcoming autumn scheduling, Ryanair could not
wait for the outcome of the EU decision, Ryanair Nordic head Lotta
Lindquist-Brosjo told Swedish radio.

As of October 28, flights from Vasteras, 100 kilometres west of
the Swedish capital, Stockholm would be discontinued.

In addition, the twice-daily flights in each direction between
Malmo and London would be reduced to one, and the five weekly flights
from Gothenburg to Glasgow would be reduced to three, Ryanair said.

Jul 1106 1401 GMT

Load-Date: July 12, 2006



Slide Tackle - World Cup curiosities

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 29, 2006 Thursday 2:54 PM EST

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Section: SPORTS

Length: 320 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

SPECIAL GUEST: One in five German women would invite Michael Ballack to dinner if they had a chance to play host to a member of the national team, according to a survey for a television cookery programme.

Twenty-one per cent of those questioned opted for the German skipper. Coach Juergen Klinsmann came second on 10 per cent, followed by strikers Miroslav Klose (8 per cent) and goalkeeper Jens Lehmann on 6 per cent.

TRAVEL PLANS: England captain David Beckham can imagine ending his playing career in the United States but says the time is not ripe for such considerations. "That's something for the future. America can wait," the 31-year-old told a press conference at England's training camp in Buehlertal. Beckham said the planned to continue playing in Europe for the next few years.

CUTTING EDGE: Beckham's wife Victoria dashed from Germany to London this week to have a 1,500-pound (2,700 dollar) hairdo so she will look good at Saturday's quarter-final match between England and Portugal, the Sun newspaper reported. But the 32-year-old ex-Spice Girl tried to limit costs on travel by taking budget airline Ryanair from Karlsruhe, near Baden-Baden, where she was expected back Thursday. During a five-hour appointment with her favourite hairdresser, Beckham had a full set of new hair extensions, rolling up in an elaborate bun at the back of her head. The Sun said Beckham had been "horrificed" at pictures taken in Canada last week which looked like she had developed a bald patch.

FAMILY AFFAIRS: Portugal's football family has increased in size since the start of the World Cup nearly three weeks ago. Luis Boa Morta has just become a father. The 28-year-old, who plays for London club Fulham, flew to England to be at the birth of his daughter and rejoined the squad on Wednesday. Paulo Ferreira's wife gave birth shortly before the country's opening group match against Angola.

Slide Tackle - World Cup curiosities

Load-Date: June 30, 2006

End of Document



Victoria Beckham splashes out on hairdo ahead of Portugal match

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 29, 2006 Thursday 11:21 AM EST

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Section: SPORTS

Length: 135 words

Dateline: London

Body

Victoria Beckham, wife of footballer David, dashed from Germany to London this week to have a 1,500-pound (2,700 dollar)

hairdo so she will look good at Saturday's quarter-final match between England and Portugal, the Sun newspaper reported Thursday.

But the 32-year-old ex-Spice Girl tried to limit costs on travel by taking budget airline Ryanair from Karlsruhe, near Baden-Baden, where she was expected to return Thursday.

During a five-hour appointment with her favourite hairdresser, Beckham had a full set of new hair extensions, rolling up in an elaborate bun at the back of her head.

The Sun said Beckham had been "horrified" at pictures taken in Canada last week which looked like she had developed a bald patch.

"She wanted it sorted out before the Portugal game," a source told the Sun.

Load-Date: June 30, 2006



ROUNDUP: Ryanair's profit up 12 per cent to 302 million euros

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 10:55 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 389 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair announced on Tuesday in Dublin profits of 302 million euros for the financial year to the end of March, 12 per cent higher than the previous year and 7 million euros more than the company had previously estimated.

Sales increased by 28 per cent on the previous financial year, rising from 1.32 billion to 1.69 billion euros, but fuel costs rose 74 per cent to 462 million euros.

"Despite these substantially higher fuel costs, Ryanair achieved an 18-per-cent after-tax margin, as adjusted net profits increased for the year by 12 per cent to 302 million euros," a statement from the company said.

If oil stays at 70 dollars a barrel, Ryanair predicted that its profits would rise by between 5 and 10 per cent in the coming financial year.

The number of passengers using the airline increased by 26 per cent on the previous 12-month period to 35 million.

The company predicted that traffic would grow a further 20 per cent to 42 million passengers by the end of the current financial year.

"We expect to overtake Lufthansa's international passenger traffic later this year, thereby making Ryanair the world's largest international scheduled airline by passenger numbers," the statement from the company said.

Ryanair also said it has plans to open a new French base in Marseille in November this year and up to two other new bases by the spring of 2007.

ROUNDUP: Ryanair 's profit up 12 per cent to 302 million euros

The company managed to cut costs other than fuel by 5 per cent over the year. One example was a modification to current aircraft that led to a 2-per-cent reduction in fuel consumption across the fleet.

"This robust performance validates our lowest fare/lowest cost model which continues to grow profitably in Europe even during adverse market conditions, when many of our competitors are reporting losses," Ryanair's chief executive Michael O'Leary said in a statement.

The company has recently retired its older Boeing 737-200 aircraft and now claims to have the youngest fleet in Europe, with an average age per plane of 2.5 years.

Ryanair currently has 103 aircraft that fly 330 routes across 22 countries in Europe and plans to increase its fleet by 30 by April 2007.

Launched in the mid-1980s, Ryanair was Europe's first "no frills" airline that aimed to undercut national carriers on European routes.

Load-Date: June 7, 2006

End of Document



Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 1400 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
June 6, 2006 Tuesday 1:51 PM EST

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Length: 766 words

Body

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(1900-0300 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0300-1200 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 671-3169

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Baghdad - More murder victims found in Iraq's sectarian
strife (Iraq-Conflicts, by 1700)

Ramallah - Abbas extends document referendum deadline
(Mideast-Conflicts, by 1700)

Rheinsberg, - German Chancellor Merkel, French President Chirac
Germany hold talks (Germany-Diplomacy/France, by 1700)

Luxembourg - Eurozone finance ministers meet to discuss budget
issues, Slovenian entry (EU-Diplomacy, as available)

Reykjavik - Iceland's foreign minister slated to be new premier
(Iceland-Politics, 2ND ROUNDUP by 1500)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

Reykjavik - Icelandic Premier Asgrimsson to quit
(240 words/Iceland-Politics)

Tokyo - Nikkei hits lowest closing in more than four months
(120 words/Japan-Markets)

Dili - East Timor protestors converge on Dili
(400 words/E.Timor-Conflicts)

Tehran - Iran confirms receipt of nuclear proposal, Solana

Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 1400 GMT

ends talks (365 words/Iran-Nuclear)

Beijing - Jealous ex-husband detonates bomb at wedding; nine dead (150 words/China-Crime)

Dublin - Ryanair's profit up 12 per cent to 302 million euros (410 words/Ireland-Aviation)

Athens - One child drowns after immigrants attempt to enter Greece (120 words/Greece-Society/Migration)

Kathmandu - Nepal's prime minister leaves for India to ask for aid (Nepal-Diplomacy/India)

Kanchanaburi, - Thai wildlife activists block jumbo lift
Thailand (490 words/Thailand-Nature)

Jakarta - Indonesian warns US not to be "overinsistent" on security
(835 words/Indonesia-Diplomacy/US/2ND ROUNDUP)

London - Spanish group set to take over British airports (680 words/Britain-Business/Aviation)

Colombo - 4 killed, 5 injured in north-eastern Sri Lanka (430 words/SriLanka-Conflicts)

SPORT MOVED:

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - PREVIEW: Bright, new stars lead Miami, Dallas in NBA finals. By Paul Levine
(770 words/Basketball-NBA)

TENNIS

Wellington - Banned New Zealand number one may appeal drug ban (Tennis-NewZealand/Doping)

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL - WORLD CUP

Berlin - See separate schedule
(dpa-WORLD CUP SCHEDULE)

SPORT PLANNED:

FOOTBALL - WORLD CUP - LAND OF IDEAS PLANNED:

Berlin - Pia Castro showcases Berlin's multiculturalism
(630 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Argentina, after 0330 Wednesday)

Kassel, - German technology helps Argentina find new energy
Germany sources (510 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Argentina, after 0330)

Berlin - Ciro Cappellari: "For me, art is always political"
(655 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Argentina, after 0330)

Dusseldorf, - An American academic on the Heine trail in Dusseldorf
Germany (660 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/US, after 0330)

Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 1400 GMT

Northfield, - Labour of love: Joachim Reppmann and Low German in
Minnesota America (470 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/US, after 0330)

Stuttgart, - Clinic clown Marla Levenstein helps children forget
Germany their illness (540 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/US, after 0330)

Cologne, - Rita McBride feels at home in "Cultural Hot Spot
Germany Cologne" (550 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/US, after 0330)

Friedrichstadt, Dutch religious refugees found a home in
Germany Friedrichstadt (700 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Netherlands, after 0330)

Potsdam, - Brandenburg's "Little Amsterdam": The Dutch Quarter
Germany in Potsdam (570 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Netherlands, after 0330)

Muenster, - Welcome to the German city of Muenster where people
Germany also speak Dutch (490 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Netherlands, after 0330)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS PLANNED:

San Sebastian,- FEATURE: Basques push for new state in Europe
Spain "without frontiers". By Sinikka Tarvainen
(700 words/Spain-Conflicts/Basques, after 0215)

- SIDEBAR: The Basque nationalist movement
(320 words/Spain-Conflicts/Basques, after 0215)

Load-Date: June 7, 2006

End of Document



Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 0330 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 3:48 AM EST

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Length: 984 words

Body

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(2000-0400 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0400-1300 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 6713169

ASIA:

Dili - East Timor unrest continues
(EastTimor-Conflicts)

Jakarta - Quake relief, recovery continues on Java
(Indonesia-Quakes)

- US Defence Secretary Rumsfeld
to hold talks with Indonesian leaders
(Indonesia-Diplomacy/US)

- Former Indonesian strongman Suharto's 85th birthday
(Indonesia-People)

Colombo - Landmine attack near naval site
(SriLanka-Conflicts)

Kanchanaburi, - Thai wildlife activists block attempts
to fly eight elephants to Australia
(Thailand-Nature)

Hong Kong - Hong Kong leader Tsang takes Mass from China bishop
(HongKong-Religion/China)

- Radio station criticized for "celebrity rape" contest
(HongKong-Entertain)

Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 0330 GMT

Wellington - New Zealander tried on sedition charges
(NewZealand-Justice)

- New Zealand police say injured Indonesian was illegal
(NewZealand-Society/Indonesia)

Taipei - Taiwan computer show COMPUTEX Taipei 2006 opens
(Taiwan-Technology)

MIDEAST:

Tehran - EU's Solana to present nuclear proposals to Iran
(Iran-Nuclear)

Baghdad - Developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

Jerusalem/ - Palestinian Authority President Abbas
Gaza set to pursue referendum on two-state solution
(Mideast-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Rheinsberg, - German Chancellor Merkel, French President Chirac
Germany to discuss European issues
(Germany-Diplomacy/France)

Luxembourg - Eurozone finance ministers meeting
(EU-Economy)

Dublin - Ryanair annual results
(Ireland-Business)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

Paris - French Open continues
(Tennis-ATP-WTA)

- Nadal stretches record clay success with 57th win.
By Bill Scott
(475 words/Tennis-French/previous cycle)

- NOTEBOOK: Blake's bid beckons after Paris ouster
(400 words/Tennis-French/previous cycle)

Stockholm - NEWS FEATURE: Swedish tennis great Borg
rates himself among top four. By Lennart Simonsson
(500 words/Tennis-Sweden/Borg/previous cycle)

Wellington - Banned New Zealand number 1 may appeal drug ban
(Tennis-NewZealand/Doping)

BASKETBALL

Los Angeles - PREVIEW: Bright, new stars lead Miami,
Dallas in NBA finals. By Paul Levine
Eds: NBA finals begin 8 pm Thursday (0000 GMT Friday)
(750 words/Basketball-NBA/previous cycle)

FOOTBALL - WORLD CUP

Berlin - See separate schedule
(dpa-WORLD CUP SCHEDULE)

Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 0330 GMT

Washington - FEATURE: US youth football advancing
on the world stage. By Chris Cermak
(750 words/Football-WorldCup/US)

WORLD CUP - LAND OF IDEAS

Berlin - Germany is poised to get its
first Chinese cultural institute
(650 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/China)

- German capital warms to
self-crowned "Queen of Berlin"
(750 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
South Korea)

Dortmund, - China's coal and German technology
Germany join forces as DBT expands
(610 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/China)

- Red-striped grass adds colour to the Arab desert
(500 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
Saudi Arabia)

Frankfurt, - German managers prepare for
Germany Chinese cultural revelations
(500 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/China)

Nuremberg, - New gilt methods aim at glossing up Arab palaces
Germany (590 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
Saudi Arabia)

Bad Nauheim, - A magical visit awaits Saudi Arabia's
Germany footballers in Bad Nauheim
(470 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
Saudi Arabia)

Munich - A meeting-place not just for Koreans -
Munich's HAJA! Club
(640 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
South Korea)

Ratzeburg, - A German journalist filmed the Kwangju massacre
Germany (470 words/Football-WorldCup/Land of Ideas/
South Korea)

BYLINERS, BACKGROUNDERS:

Washington - NEWS ANALYSIS: In appeal to core supporters,
Bush turns to "protecting marriage." By Klaus Marre
(475 words/US-Politics/previous cycle)

Buenos Aires - NEWS FEATURE: Garcia hopefully wiser 21 years
after first term. By Jan-Uwe Ronneburger
(425 words/Peru-Elections/Garcia/previous cycle)

Bantul, - FEATURE: Parents struggle to cope with child trauma
Indonesia after Java quake. By Sukino Harisumarto
(650 words/Indonesia-Quakes/previous cycle)

Dili/Sydney - ANALYSIS: Samaritans baulk at funding East Timor's
second chance. By Michael J Coren and Sid Astbury
(950 words/E.Timor-Conflicts/Australia/

Schedule for Tuesday, June 6, 0330 GMT

previous cycle)

Dili - East Timor gangs run rings round foreign troops.
By Michael J Coren
(850 words/E.Timor-Conflicts/previous cycle)

El Fasher, - FEATURE: Displaced Darfuris makes themselves
Sudan at home in camp. By Noel King
(710 words/Sudan-Conflicts/Darfur)

Mogadishu/ - NEWS FEATURE: Spectre of the Taliban as Mogadishu
Nairobi falls to Islamists. By Ulrike Koltermann
(400 words/Somalia-Conflicts/previous cycle)

Baghdad - NEWS FEATURE: More than 6,000 corpses found
in Iraq in five months. By Kadhem al-Attabi
(575 words/Iraq-Conflicts/Statistics/previous cycle)

Belgrade/ - Serbia nearly stumbles on first steps
Podgorica as sovereign state. By Boris Babic
(700 words/Serbia-Politics/Montenegro/previous cycle)

Belgrade - NEW FEATURE: Associates of Djindjic's killers
send a deadly message. By Boris Babic
(575 words/Serbia-Crime/Djindjic/previous cycle)

London - Report rekindles horror of London terror attacks
one year on. By Anna Tomforde
(650 words/Britain-Terrorism/previous cycle)

Load-Date: June 7, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair net profit gains 12 per cent to 302 million euros

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 6, 2006 Tuesday 10:29 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 124 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

Irish low-cost airline Ryanair announced on Tuesday in Dublin profits of 302 million euros for the financial year that ended March 31, up 12 per cent from the year before and seven million euros more than the company had previously estimated.

Sales increased by 28 per cent on the previous financial year, rising from 1.32 billion to 1.69 billion euros, but fuel costs 74 per cent to 462 million euros.

"Despite these substantially higher fuel costs, Ryanair achieved an 18-per-cent after tax margin, as adjusted net profits increased for the year by 12 per cent to 302 million euros," a statement from the company said.

The number of passengers using the airline increased by 26 per cent on the previous 12-month period to 35 million.

Load-Date: June 7, 2006



ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, June 6, 1600 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur
June 5, 2006 Monday 4:00 PM EST

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Length: 513 words

Body

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(2000-0400 GMT) Washington Tel: 001-202-662-1241 Fax: 662-1270
(Sun-Fri 0400-1300 GMT) Bangkok Tel: 0066-2-6713165 Fax: 6713169

MIDEAST:

Tehran - EU's Solana presents Iran nuclear proposals
(Iran-Nuclear)

Baghdad - Developments in Iraq
(Iraq-Conflicts)

Jerusalem/ - Situation in the Middle East
Gaza (Mideast-Conflicts)

EUROPE:

Luxembourg - Eurozone finance ministers meeting
(EU-Economy)

Dublin - Ryanair annual results
(Ireland-Business)

ASIA:

Dili - East Timor conflict developments
(EastTimor-Conflicts)

Jakarta - Indonesia quake aftermath
(Indonesia-Quakes)

Jakarta - Former Indonesian strongman Suharto's 85th birthday

ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, June 6, 1600 GMT

(Indonesia-People)

Washington/ - US Secretary of Defence continues visit to Vietnam
Hanoi (US-Diplomacy/Vietnam)

SPORT PLANNED:

TENNIS

Paris - French Open continues
(Tennis-ATP-WTA)

FOOTBALL - WORLD CUP

- See separate schedule (dpa-WORLD CUP SCHEDULE/)

FOOTBALL - WORLD CUP - LAND OF IDEAS PLANNED:

Berlin - Germany is poised to get its first Chinese cultural
institute (650 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/China, after 0330 Tuesday)

Dortmund, - China's coal and German technology join forces as
Germany DBT expands (610 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/China, after 0330)

Frankfurt, - German managers prepare for Chinese cultural
Germany revelations (500 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/China, after 0330)

Dortmund, - Red-striped grass adds colour to the Arab desert
Germany (500 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Saudi Arabia, after 0330)

Nuremberg, - New gilt methods aim at glossing up Arab palaces
Germany (590 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Saudi Arabia, after 0330)

Bad Nauheim, - A magical visit awaits Saudi Arabia's footballers
Germany in Bad Nauheim (470 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/Saudi Arabia, after 0330)

Berlin - German capital warms to self-crowned "Queen of
Berlin" (750 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/South Korea, after 0330)

Munich - A meeting-place not just for Koreans - Munich's HAJA!
Club (640 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/South Korea, after 0330)

Ratzeburg, - A German journalist filmed the Kwangju massacre
Germany (470 words/Football-WorldCup/
Land of Ideas/South Korea, after 0330)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS PLANNED:

El Fasher, - FEATURE: Displaced Darfuris makes themselves at home
Sudan in camp. By Noel King
(710 words/Sudan-Conflicts/Darfur, after 0215
Tuesday)

Washington - FEATURE: US youth football advancing on the world
stage. By Chris Cermak

ADVANCE Schedule for TUESDAY, June 6, 1600 GMT

(720 words/Football-WorldCup/US, after 0205)

Load-Date: June 6, 2006

End of Document



Calendar of events in June 2006

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 1, 2006 Thursday 12:02 AM EST

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Length: 528 words

Body

Following is a calendar of events scheduled for June 2006:

- 1 - UN veto powers and Germany deliberate on further procedure in nuclear dispute with Iran
- 1 - US State Department report on human trafficking
- 1 - EU justice ministers meet in Luxembourg
- 1 - Deutsche Bank AGM (Frankfurt)
- 1 - World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz in Hamburg for international banking forum
- 1 - OPEC holds special meeting in Venezuela
- 2 - US unemployment rate
- 2 - German Finance Minister Peer Steinbrueck confers with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown (Berlin)
- 2 - German Chancellor Merkel holds talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II (Berlin)
- 2-3 - Czech parliamentary elections
- 3 - Sudeten German-expellee group begins traditional Whitsuntide meeting (Nuremberg)
- 4 - Runoff vote for Peruvian president
- 5 - Honduras President Rosales meets with US President Bush at White House
- 6 - Ryanair annual results
- 6-7 - Eurozone finance ministers meeting in Luxembourg

Calendar of events in June 2006

- 7-8 - Sixth Baltic Council summit in Reykyavik
- 8 - NATO defence ministers meet in Brussels
- 8 - Thomas Cook figures for Q2
- 8 - European Central bank meeting in Madrid
- 8-9 - EU Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council meets in Luxembourg
- 8 -9 - Council of Europe ministers meet in Stockholm to discuss gender equality (sixth summit)
- 9-9/7 - Football World Cup 2006 kicks off in Germany
- 9 - Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen meets US President Bush at Camp David
- 12- - IAEA board of governors meets in Vienna
- 12 - SIPRI think tank releases 2006 Yearbook on Armaments, Disarmament and International Security in Stockholm
- 12-15 - European Parliament convenes in Strasbourg
- 12-13 - EU foreign ministers meet in Luxembourg to prepare for EU summit
- 13 - New trial starts in Tripoli against Bulgarian nurses accused of infecting Libyan children with AIDS
- 13 - Christie's auctions jewelry and artworks from private collection of late Princess Margaret of Britain
- 13 - German ZEW Investor Confidence survey
- 14 - US inflation rate for May
- 14 - Announcement of IMPAC Dublin Literary Award
- 15 - Announcement of winner of the biennial award 1-million-euro Millennium Technology Prize in Helsinki
- 15-16 - EU summit in Brussels
- 17 - Parliamentary elections in Slovakia
- 17 - Europride 2006 gay parade in London
- 18 - Referendum in north-eastern Spanish region of Catalonia on increased autonomy
- 19 - EU Agricultural Council meets
- 21 - EU-US summit in Vienna
- 21 - Luciano Pavarotti sings farewell to Washington
- 22 - US leading economic indicators

Calendar of events in June 2006

- 25 - Kosovo talks resume in Vienna
- 25 - Referendum on constitutional reform in Italy
- 26 - Finnish President Halonen on visit to Austria
- 27 - US consumer confidence
- 27 - German business confidence
- 29 - US central bank sets new interest rates
- 29 - Japan's Prime Minister Koizumi meets with US President Bush in Washington
- 29 - German unemployment
- 29-2/7 - 36th Roskilde music festival

Load-Date: June 1, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: British Airways profits soar but costs also rise

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 19, 2006 Friday 12:12 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 362 words

Dateline: London

Body

British Airways (BA) on Friday announced a 21-per-cent rise in pre-tax profits to 620 million pounds (1.2 billion dollars) for the financial year ending March 31, 2006.

Operating profit was reported to be 705 million pounds in London Friday, which topped market expectations. Sales increased to 8.52 billion pounds from 7.7 billion pounds.

New BA-chief Willie Walsh said he was pleased with the results, but added that rising fuel costs and a growing pension deficit remained problems that needed to be tackled.

BA staff, reduced by 14,000 over the past years, received bonus payments on the back of the results for the first time in many years.

But costs were also up, by 8.2 per cent overall. Fuel costs rose by 44 per cent over the year to 1.6 billion pounds.

Walsh said BA expected fuel costs to increase by another 600 million pounds in the current financial year, up from its previous guidance of 400 million pounds, due to the latest rise in oil prices.

Transatlantic and long-haul operations remain the main factor behind BA's improved figures, with new routes being added to India and China.

A recovery in first and business class traffic and new long-haul routes had kept planes full, analysts said.

Some 60 per cent of BA's earnings are made on routes to North America and Canada.

But after drastic cuts in ticket prices, BA's short-haul business has also seen a recovery, and is now in profit for the first time in

ROUNDUP: British Airways profits soar but costs also rise

10 years, according to the company.

Last month, BA announced fare cuts by more than 50 per cent to 65 destinations in Europe, in an effort to lure clients away from low-cost rivals such as Ryanair and EasyJet.

Walsh made clear Friday that BA would look at further cost-cutting measures in view of a pensions deficit of 2.07 billion pounds, up by 101 million pounds from a year ago.

The airline has said it wants to raise the retirement age for its pilots from 55 to 60, and to 65 for cabin crew, while injecting 500 million pounds into the pension scheme.

Analysts said the growing pension deficit and the value of the dollar in important transatlantic business remained major problems for the British airline.

Load-Date: May 20, 2006

End of Document



Plans to merge Nordic low cost airlines mooted: Report

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 11, 2006 Thursday 12:14 PM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 245 words

Dateline: Stockholm/Oslo

Body

Plans to form a large Nordic-based low cost airline that may in future take on the likes of Easy Jet or Ryanair surfaced Thursday.

The Norwegian financial daily Finansavisen said Swedish-based Fly Me was investigating plans to cooperate with Danish-based Sterling Airlines and perhaps also Norway-based Norwegian, citing Norwegian investor Christen Ager-Hanssen.

Ager-Hanssen owns some 16 per cent of Fly Me's shares, making him second-largest owner of the Gothenburg-based group.

A takeover of Sterling Airlines could cost some 2 billion kroner (329 million dollars), the report said.

Sterling is owned by Icelandic investment group FL Group, and operates flights to some 40 destinations.

Fly Me has mainly serviced Swedish destinations, but recently started flying to 12 European destinations.

Last year Sterling merged with Danish low coast carrier, Maersk Air, creating Europe's fourth largest low cost airline.

Fly Me's managing director Fredrik Skanselid told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa he would not discuss specifics but noted that the company earlier this year announced plans to acquire Lithuanian Airlines.

"Our new owners have said they want to be part of the consolidation of low cost airlines," Skanselid said.

He noted there were some four to six carriers in the Nordic region that have similar activities, and as they grow they will sooner or later compete with each other, opening up later prospects for mergers

Plans to merge Nordic low cost airlines mooted: Report

or cooperation.

Load-Date: May 12, 2006

End of Document



EasyJet optimistic for full year despite losses due to fuel costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

May 3, 2006 Wednesday 8:42 AM EST

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Section: FINANCE

Length: 201 words

Dateline: London

Body

Budget airline EasyJet said Wednesday that its half-year losses almost doubled to 40.3 million pounds (72.5 million dollars) in the six months to the end of March 2006, due chiefly to a 49 per cent rise in fuel costs.

The pre-tax losses compare with a figure of 21.6 million pounds for the same period last year.

However, EasyJet said its performance over the last six months was slightly ahead of expectations, and its prospects for the full-year had improved.

"Notwithstanding these uncertainties, we now anticipate full-year passenger revenue per seat to be broadly in line with 2005, and expect ancillary revenue to grow at around 20 per cent for the full-year", EasyJet said.

Overall, EasyJet said it expected full-year pre-tax profit to be 10 to 15 per cent higher than in 2005, reaching up to 78.2 million pounds.

EasyJet, which is in stiff competition with Irish rival Ryanair, generates most of its revenues and profits in the second half of its financial year, when holidaymakers jet off on summer breaks.

During the first half of the current financial year, a total of 14.9 million passengers flew with the airline, an increase of 10.1 per cent on the same period of 2005.

Load-Date: May 4, 2006

EasyJet optimistic for full year despite losses due to fuel costs

End of Document



Ryanair chief urges booming Poland to expand, improve airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 11, 2006, Tuesday 17301717:30:17 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 218 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

Head of Ireland's Ryanair budget airline Michael O'Leary Tuesday in Warsaw urged the Polish government to improve the country's airport infrastructure in a bid to spur further growth in the European Union newcomer's booming budget air travel sector.

O'Leary urged Poland to do away with its inflexible centralised national airport authority, bring an end to centrally established airport fees and break the monopoly on airport fuel deliveries.

A second airport for the capital Warsaw was also essential, he said.

Ryanair is one of five budget airlines competing on the Polish market. Eased labour restrictions in Ireland and Great Britain for EU newcomer Poles have led to hundreds of thousands of passengers taking budget flights to get to work.

Budget airlines served some 3.23 million passengers in Poland in 2005, accounting for a 31 per cent share of all domestic air passenger traffic for the year and a whopping 18 per cent rise from 2004.

Other budget airlines operating in Poland include Centralwings, the budget wing of Poland's LOT national flagship airline, Hungary's Wizz Air, Slovakia's Sky Europe and Britain's easyJet.

Statistics show EU newcomer Poland saw a 30 per cent boom in passenger traffic through airports in 2005 over the previous year. The growth was the most rapid in Europe. dpa sib sr

Load-Date: April 11, 2006



Swedish premier to sue no-frills airline, faces work safety probe

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 6, 2006, Thursday 15:18:14 Central European Time

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Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 274 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson has filed a lawsuit against no-frills airline Ryanair after it used his face in a newspaper advertisement without permission, an aide said Thursday.

Former Foreign Minister Laila Freivalds, who resigned last month, is also seeking damages over the advertisement published in late February under the title "Time to flee the country?"

Persson and Freivalds were each seeking 75,000 kronor (10,000 dollars) in damages according to a lawsuit filed in the Stockholm District Court. Both politicians said the advertisement was offensive.

The advert was launched as a parliament committee was investigating the government's slow response to the December 2004 tsunami disaster where more than 500 Swedish nationals died.

In a separate development, Persson and his wife Anita Steen, head of the state alcohol monopoly stores, are facing a probe over possible violations of work safety laws.

Prosecutors said they were considering a probe after receiving a complaint from the Swedish Work Environment Authority.

The violation could entail a fine. The probe includes Persson's brother who has been contracted to build a manor-style house in the countryside, south of Stockholm, for Persson and Steen.

According to the agency, Persson and his wife had failed to submit a work safety plan for workers building their new home.

Persson told reporters he was "surprised," over the move but said he "wanted to see what the prosecutor decides."

Persson and Steen have said they look forward to settling into their new home. It is located with a view over a lake near Flen, less than an hour by train from Stockholm. dpa lsm sr

Load-Date: April 6, 2006

Swedish premier to sue no-frills airline, faces work safety probe

End of Document



Hungary's air traffic keeps on climbing

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 16, 2006, Thursday 16325116:32:51 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 179 words

Dateline: Budapest

Body

Hungary's air traffic continues to rise relentlessly, with new figures released by Budapest Airport on Thursday showing a 10-per-cent increase in passenger traffic compared to the same period last year.

British company BAA at the end of last year bought the rights to run the airport for a record 2.2 billion dollars (1.83 billion euros), and said it wanted to turn it into a regional hub.

New company head, Chris Woodruff, declared himself satisfied with the results, saying they were particularly impressive as "February is often the weakest month."

6.5 million passengers travelled through the airport in 2004, making it the third busiest airport in Central Europe after Vienna and Prague, but in excess of 8 million have travelled over the last year.

Low-cost airlines have driven the growth, and a new terminal opened last year to deal with this increase.

Ryanair, one of the few major low-cost players that does not operate flights to Budapest, plans from May this year to start flights to Lake Balaton in Hungary, providing a further boost to passenger numbers. dpa ml wjh

Load-Date: March 16, 2006



German budget carrier seeks stock market listing

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 8, 2006, Wednesday 13561113:56:11 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 277 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

Riding a boom in Germany's budget airline business, one of the nation's leading no-frills carriers Air Berlin announced plans Wednesday to make its stock market debut.

Having transformed itself in recent years into Germany's second biggest airline behind Lufthansa, Air Berlin said sales surged last year by 17 per cent to 1.22 billion euros (1.5 billion dollars) on the back of a 12.5-per-cent jump in passengers to 13.5 million.

"We are going on the stock market because we want to realize our market opportunities," chief executive Joachim Hunold said in Berlin.

He went on to predict that Air Berlin's market share in Europe would double in the coming years.

For January and February, Air Berlin said passengers grew by 10.6 per cent while capacity increased by one point to 68.8 per cent.

Air Berlin's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) last year were 153 million euros. However, the company did not release comparative EBITDA figures.

No date has been set for the airline to float on the exchange with the group seeing a listing on the bourse as helping to underpin its expansion.

Hunold said that the company had already undertaken a 130-million-euro boost in capital to expand its capital base in the run-up to the planned share listing.

Along with other leading budget carriers such as Easyjet and Ryanair, Air Berlin has moved successfully to carve out a new business empire in Germany's giant travel market with Germans considered the world's travel champions.

"If we want to continue to grow amid stiff European competition, we have to position ourselves accordingly on the capital side," Hunold said. dpa amc wjh

German budget carrier seeks stock market listing

Load-Date: March 8, 2006

End of Document



Ryanair says fuel prices are "drag" on profits

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 6, 2006, Monday 10255110:25:51 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 206 words

Dateline: London/Dublin

Body

Low-cost airline Ryanair, announcing profits for the last three months of 2005, said Monday that "very high fuel prices" had affected its profitability.

The Dublin-based carrier said adjusted profits to December 31, after tax, rose to 36.8 million euros (44 million dollars) in the third quarter of its financial year, from 34.8 million euros in the same period in 2004.

But the firm said "very high fuel prices" were a "drag on profitability."

The airline has said it will introduce a charge of 2.50 pounds (4.25 dollars) from March 16 for every item of luggage checked in.

It said passenger numbers in the reporting period grew by 26 per cent.

The company said its costs would have been reduced overall, but rose by 3 per cent in the quarter primarily due to fuel costs rising by 59 per cent.

"We continue to focus aggressively on costs and anticipate that the cost reductions will continue to partially offset the significantly higher oil prices," Ryanair said in a statement.

Last November, the company said it expected full-year profits, due at the end of March, to come in at around 200 million euros.

"We remain cautious in our outlook for the remainder of the fourth quarter," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said. dpa at ds

Load-Date: February 6, 2006



Vienna airport group wins control of Slovak airfields

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 1, 2006, Wednesday 16091816:09:18 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 324 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

The Slovak government Wednesday picked an investment group led by Vienna's airport operator to buy the fast-growing airports in Bratislava and Kosice.

The winning bid of 21.2 billion koruna (687 million dollars) in cash and future investments from the TwoOne consortium beat a competing offer from a group led by Spain's Albertis Infrastructures.

TwoOne includes Flughafen Wien, Slovak investors and Austria's Raiffeisen bank. Albertis' group included Slovak investors and TBI, which operates the Belfast and London Luton airports.

The groups were finalists in a privatization sweepstakes launched in September for the government's 66 per cent stake in Slovakia's largest airports.

TwoOne won the initial round, beating three other bidders including Albertis.

But a second round was ordered last month by Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda after government opposition leaders cried foul and threatened to block the deal.

Opponents said TwoOne would give preferential treatment to the Vienna airport at the expense of Bratislava. The two airports, 50 kilometres apart, are currently competitors.

Irish budget carrier Ryanair, which serves Bratislava, also opposed a TwoOne takeover.

Yet TwoOne has promised to invest billions of koruna to upgrade the Slovak airports and build a rail link between the Vienna and Bratislava facilities.

"We are prepared to take prompt measures ... as early as this year," said Flughafen Wien board spokesman Herbert Kaufman. "Bratislava airport will be enlarged, modernized and made more comfortable."

TwoOne's winning bid includes 11.4 billion koruna in cash and 9.8 billion koruna worth of investments for both airports by 2010.

Vienna airport group wins control of Slovak airfields

Thanks mainly to budget airline expansions, Bratislava's MR Stefanik Airport handled 13.2 million passengers last year, nearly twice as many as in 2004. Kosice's airfield is also growing rapidly.

TwoOne estimates Bratislava's annual passenger load will rise to 30 million by 2015. dpa ej pmc

Load-Date: February 1, 2006

End of Document



Boeing doubles earnings - strong defence, commercial orders

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 1, 2006, Wednesday 16221816:22:18 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 262 words

Dateline: Chicago

Body

The aerospace giant Boeing Company Wednesday reported a doubling in its fourth quarter earnings over the same period last year, boosted by demand in Asia and higher deliveries of short range aircraft to discount airlines.

Net income increased to 460 million dollars.

Sales were up 6.8 per cent to 14.2 billion dollars.

Discount carriers such as Southwest Airlines Co. and Ryanair Holdings Plc have buoyed orders for the 737 model, while economic growth has fuelled travel in China and Asia. Boeing expects 2007 deliveries to rise as much as 13 per cent.

"Commercial aerospace is humming along," JB Groh, an analyst at D.A. Davidson & Co. in Portland, Oregon, was quoted as saying by Bloomberg financial news service. "Profit on what they'll be selling in the future is looking better than it has for a long time."

Boeing said it expects to deliver between 440 and 445 commercial aircraft in 2007, with 395 expected for the current year. Last year's deliveries were 290 planes.

Boeing and Toulouse, France-based Airbus, the only makers of commercial planes seating over 100 passengers, had a combined tally of 2,057 orders last year, beating the previous record of 1,631 in 1989.

Boeing has unfilled orders of 1,809 planes, including the 1,002 orders won last year. Boeing's two-year defence backlog has swelled to about 80 billion dollars, helped by military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan. Boeing last week said it is restructuring its defence division and eliminating jobs in anticipation of a slowdown in spending by the Pentagon on major weapons programmes. dpa br pr

Load-Date: February 1, 2006



Second round for Slovak airport privatization

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 19, 2006, Thursday 16:12:03 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 279 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

The Slovak government decided Thursday to launch a second round of bidding for state-owned airports in Bratislava and Kosice.

The decision, announced by Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda after a meeting of the government's coalition partners, followed pressure from opponents of a government plan to sell the airports to a consortium led by Vienna's airport operator.

Dzurinda said new bids would be accepted only from the two highest bidders of the competition's first round.

Those bidders are the Vienna consortium TwoOne, which includes Slovak investors and Austria's Raiffeisen bank, and a consortium led by Spain's Albertis Infrastructures, which includes Slovak investors teamed with the operator of the Belfast and London Luton airports TBI.

Two other bidders eliminated in the first round last month will not be allowed to bid again.

Last week, Slovak Transport Minister Pavol Prokopovic recommended awarding the contract to TwoOne. The rest of the cabinet was expected to agree.

But opposition leaders in parliament as well as the failed bidder ISAP, which includes the German operators of the Cologne-Bonn airport, were threatening to block the sale to TwoOne.

Another opponent was Irish airline Ryanair, which serves the Bratislava airport.

Parliament was expected to debate the privatization Friday.

The main opposition focused on concerns that if TwoOne won, Vienna's airport would gain an upper hand over Bratislava. The two airports are 50 kilometres apart and currently compete for service.

The government has declined comment on media reports that TwoOne offered 6.9 billion koruna (222 million dollars) and billions more in investments for the airports. dpa ej wjh

Second round for Slovak airport privatization

Load-Date: January 19, 2006

End of Document



Support dwindling for sale of two Slovak airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 9, 2006, Monday 11004011:00:40 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 389 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

Doubts about the proposed sale of Slovakia's Bratislava and Kosice airports were expressed Monday by a government coalition leader, raising the possibility that the huge privatization deal may collapse.

"We have sufficient reason not to agree with the privatization," parliamentary chairman Pavol Hrusovsky of the Christian Democrats (KDH), a partner in the right-wing coalition of Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, told the TASR news agency.

Without giving specifics, Hrusovsky said he wants to discuss KDH's "reservations" with other coalition partners before the government makes a final decision in the coming weeks.

Similar doubts have been raised by opposition leaders and one of the losers in last month's bidding for the state-run airports. The recommended winner was the TwoOne consortium, led by Vienna's airport operator and its investment partners.

Some opponents fear that the smaller Bratislava airport would suffer if it were run by the operator of the nearby Vienna International Airport.

Ireland's budget airline Ryanair, which currently serves Bratislava, is also against a Vienna airport takeover.

The controversy began on December 22 when a Transport Ministry committee recommended that the government sell its controlling stake in the growing airports to TwoOne for an undisclosed amount.

Three other bidders - consortiums that include investors and operators of airports in Britain, Germany and Turkey - were rejected.

Transport Minister Pavol Prokopovic and the rest of Dzurinda's cabinet was expected to act on the recommendation by the end of January.

Citing the need to keep the tender confidential, the government has refused to discuss the bids.

Support dwindling for sale of two Slovak airports

However, Slovak media have reported that TwoOne won the competition by offering 6.9 billion koruna (222 million dollars) despite a 9-billion-koruna offer from a group led by the Cologne-Bonn airport.

The bidding took a political turn recently when opposition leaders Robert Fico of the Smer party and Vladimir Meciar of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) said they were against the TwoOne proposal.

When the process began last year, the European Commission said it would monitor the privatization because of unusual tender procedures.

Now the Cologne-Bonn consortium, ISAP, has threatened to complain to Brussels if TwoOne is finally picked. dpa
ej ch

Load-Date: January 9, 2006

End of Document



ROUNDUP: Mixed signals from Slovak government over sale of airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 9, 2006, Monday 15494215:49:42 Central European Time

Copyright 2006 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 543 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

A Slovak government coalition leader Monday expressed doubts about the proposed sale of the country's Bratislava and Kosice airports, raising the possibility that the huge privatization deal may collapse.

However, Slovak Transport Minister Pavol Prokopovic told reporters Monday the deal was nearly done and that he would recommend the government accept the offer of the TwoOne consortium. TwoOne is led by the operator of Vienna's airport.

The mixed messages underscored what could become a tough political battle over the proposed tender. The European Commission, which last year said it would monitor the privatization because of unusual tender procedures, may also enter the fray.

Parliament Chairman Pavol Hrusovsky of the Christian Democrats (KDH), a partner in the right-wing coalition of Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda, was the latest leader to question the airport sell-off.

"We have sufficient reason not to agree with the privatization," Hrusovsky told TASR news agency.

Without giving specifics, Hrusovsky said he wanted to discuss KDH's "reservations" with other coalition partners before the government made a final decision.

Doubts over the sale have also been raised by opposition party leaders and by one of the losers in last month's bidding for the state-run airports.

The recommended winner was TwoOne, whose investment partners include Austrian Raiffeisen Zentralbank (RZB) and Slovak finance group Penta.

But some opponents of the deal fear that the smaller Bratislava airport would suffer if it were run by the operator of the nearby Vienna International Airport.

Ireland's budget airline Ryanair, which currently serves Bratislava, is also against the takeover of the airport by TwoOne.

ROUNDUP: Mixed signals from Slovak government over sale of airports

On Monday, Prokopovic rejected fears that the Bratislava airfield would be monopolized by its larger neighbour 50 kilometres away in Vienna. He said passenger numbers at Vienna were already far higher than in Bratislava.

The controversy began on December 22 when a transport ministry committee recommended that the government sell its controlling stake in the growing airports to TwoOne for an undisclosed amount.

Three other bidders - consortiums that include investors and operators of airports in Britain, Germany and Turkey - were rejected.

Prokopovic and the rest of Dzurinda's cabinet was expected to act on the recommendation by the end of January.

Citing the confidentiality of the tender process, the government has refused to discuss the bids.

Slovak media reported that TwoOne won the competition by offering 6.9 billion koruna (222 million dollars) and billions more in investments, bringing the total bid package to 13.9 billion koruna.

The ISAP group, led by the Cologne-Bonn airport, reportedly made a higher investment bid of 9 billion koruna.

The bidding took a political turn recently when opposition leaders Robert Fico of the Smer party and Vladimir Meciar of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) said they were against the TwoOne proposal.

ISAP has threatened to complain to the European Commission if TwoOne is finally picked.

Fico, meanwhile, has warned that he would push to reverse the privatization if his party gains power in the next parliamentary elections in September. dpa ej cb

Adds transport minister comments

Load-Date: January 9, 2006



A green dream as job-hungry Poles invade the Emerald Isle

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 30, 2005, Friday 14492814:49:28 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 300 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

A total of 120,000 Poles have arrived in Ireland since the EU's May 2004 expansion, and 5,000 new Polish migrant workers are expected every month in the near future, Poland's Rzeczpospolita daily reported Friday.

The Polish invasion is far from ending as Poles comprise some three per cent of Ireland's population of 4 million, according to a report headlined "An Immigrant's green dream".

RyanAir, Ireland's budget airline, recently set up new routes to four major Polish cities. The flagship national airline, Aer Lingus, is also considering extra connections.

Ireland was among the few older 15 EU states which opened its labour market to workers from 10 newcomer countries immediately after the EU's enlargement last year.

Vibrant growth in the Celtic Tiger's economy is not the only thing attracting Poles to the Emerald Isle. Migrant labourers from the east, who speak just a little English, experience less discrimination than in other EU states, according to Rzeczpospolita.

"If you can speak English relatively well and have 1,000 euro in your pocket for a start, then by all means, come," Jacek Piekarz, who has been living in Dublin for 11 months, told Rzeczpospolita.

With a degree in history, his job as a public servant in Poland earned him only 900 zloty (275 dollars) a month without a prayer of a pay rise. In Dublin, Piekarz clears 1,500 euro (1767 dollars) a month as a security guard, allowing him to cover living costs and to tuck away savings.

Poles have already established Polish-language newspapers and churches in Ireland, where Catholicism is deeply entrenched. An Irish cable TV channel is also broadcasting Polish-language programming.

An estimated 50,000 Lithuanians have also taken advantage of their new-found status as EU citizens to live and work in Ireland. dpa sib pb sc

Load-Date: December 30, 2005

A green dream as job-hungry Poles invade the Emerald Isle

End of Document



Four investors bid for Slovakia's main airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 5, 2005, Monday 21073821:07:38 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 309 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

Operators of airports in Vienna, Istanbul, Cologne and Belfast submitted bids Monday for two fast-growing Slovak airports slated for sale by the government.

A Slovak transportation ministry spokesman named the finalists but gave no details on the bids for the MR Stefanik Airport in the capital, Bratislava, and Kosice Airport in the east.

The government plans to name a winner by the end of the year, said spokesman Tomas Sarluska.

Bidding for the government's 66 per cent stake in each airport are Airport TwoOne, an Austrian-Slovak consortium led by Vienna's airport operator Flughafen Wien, and ISAP, a Slovak-Austrian-German consortium that includes the operator of the Cologne-Bonn airport.

Also bidding are Turkey's TAV, which runs Istanbul's Ataturk Airport, and a group led by Spain's Albertis Infrastructures that includes Slovak investors teamed with the operator of the Belfast and London Luton airports TBI.

A consortium of France's Vinci Concessions and Austria's Away bowed out of the race last month following media reports that they may have broken tender rules by working with the Austrian bank Raiffeisen, which is also backing Airport TwoOne.

Sarluska said a government commission agreed with a recommendation of its privatization adviser Meinel Bank to exclude Vinci-Away but allow Airport TwoOne to compete.

TwoOne is considered a leading bidder thanks to its plan to link airports in Vienna and Bratislava, about 50 kilometres apart. However that plan is opposed by one of Bratislava biggest airlines, Ireland's budget carrier RyanAir.

The Bratislava and Kosice airports have been expanding rapidly. After handling a combined 1 million passengers last year, mainly through budget airlines, the Bratislava field saw traffic increase 50 per cent in the first half of this year while Kosice's passenger traffic rose 14 per cent. dpa ej tc

Four investors bid for Slovakia 's main airports

Load-Date: December 5, 2005

End of Document



Ryanair profits soar despite fuel cost rise

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 7, 2005, Monday 10264910:26:49 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 165 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair Monday revealed an 18 per cent rise in profits, despite a doubling in fuel prices, for the first six months of 2005.

The Dublin-based carrier posted record net profits of 237 million euros (279 million dollars), but said it remained cautious about its outlook for the full year.

Ryanair said its decision not to impose a fuel surcharge like many of its rivals helped it increase the number of passengers carried during the period by 29 per cent to 18 million.

Fuel costs had increased by 108 per cent in the six months to September 30 and were expected to remain at these high levels "for some time", Ryanair said.

Meanwhile Monday, budget rival EasyJet reported a rise in passenger figures for October, bringing the total of passengers carried between October 2004 and October 2005 to 29.9 million.

However, the airline said that its load factor - which shows how full the planes are - fell to 85.6 per cent in October from 87 per cent in October 2004. dpa at sc

Load-Date: November 7, 2005



NEWS FEATURE: Industry's big guns target small Slovak airports

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 5, 2005, Wednesday 02051702:05:17 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 749 words

Dateline: Bratislava

Body

Convinced that Eastern Europe's market is taking off, some of the biggest guns in the European airport industry have set sights on a pair of small airports located at opposite ends of Slovakia.

Five companies, including the operators of airports in Vienna, Cologne, Belfast and Istanbul, are on the Slovak government's short list for the privatization of the MR Stefanik Airport in the capital

Bratislava and the Kosice Airport in the country's east.

Financial details of the offers are closely guarded secrets. The government is expected to select a winner next month.

Tomas Sarluska, spokesman for the Slovak transport ministry, declined to discuss financials except to say, "The price will be generated in the international tender."

And a spokesman for the British bidder TBI, who requested anonymity, said the bidding is "very commercially sensitive. It's all going to come down to price and proposal, and nobody's giving anything away."

That so much interest has been generated by two airports which handled only about 1 million passengers last year -- mainly through budget airlines -- is indicative of the enormous potential seen for air travel in and through Slovakia.

The small country is a new European Union member where foreign firms like Korean automaker Kia and America's U.S. Steel are investing billions of dollars.

Bratislava is rising in status as a sister city to much larger Vienna, just 50 kilometres away. Stefanik Airport is also just a short flight from busy airports in Budapest and Prague.

The Stefanik airfield posted a 49 per cent increase in passengers for the first half of this year, to more than 680,000. Next week it will get a new daily connection to Milan via budget carrier Ryanair. The airport is also the base for Slovakia's homegrown discount airline SkyEurope and a traditional link for Germany's Lufthansa and Czech Air.

NEWS FEATURE: Industry's big guns target small Slovak airports

Kosice's small airport is in a growing manufacturing region and a gateway to Slovakia's huge eastern neighbour Ukraine. For the first eight months of this year, the airport posted a 14 per cent increase in passengers.

The TBI spokesman noted, "Eastern Europe is going to be an expanding airline market. It's all about market potential."

Equally aware of the economic potential is the government, which plans to keep a 14 per cent stake in each airport after selling off the controlling 66 per cent and giving away 10 per cent stakes to local governments.

Indeed, the government recently rejected a recommendation of its airport privatization advisor, Meindl Bank, to sell 80 per cent stakes.

Particularly keen on developing Bratislava's air market in tandem with Vienna is a bidder called Airport TwoOne, an Austrian-Slovak consortium led by Vienna's airport operator Flughafen Wien.

A consortium press statement cited "major opportunities for the economic development of the Vienna and Bratislava Airports based on the strong impulses for growth in the Vienna-Lower Austria-Bratislava region."

TwoOne has proposed linking the Vienna and Bratislava airports by rail and coordinating flights to serve a combined regional load of 30 million passengers annually by 2015, compared with about 16 million today.

After privatization, the Bratislava airfield may get a new terminal and other upgrades. It's also being eyed by U.S. aircraft maker Boeing as a possible site for pilot training.

Some experts have predicted that in a few years Bratislava, despite a population of less than 500,000, could be handling 5 million airline passengers annually.

But exactly how the two airports will develop after privatization won't be known until after the government picks a winning bid next month.

Aside from TwoOne, none of the companies on the government's short list agreed to explain their proposals to Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

The other four are: France's Vinci Concessions, a manager of 17 airports and global supplier of baggage systems; the Slovak-Austrian-German consortium ISAP, which includes the operator of the Cologne-Bonn airport; TAV, which runs Istanbul's Ataturk Airport; and a group that includes Belfast and London Luton airports operator TBI, its Spanish parent Albertis, and Slovak investors.

Initially some 49 companies showed interest in the Slovak airports, including Austrian Airlines and the operator of Copenhagen's airport.

Most of those who showed early interest bowed out on their own accord, and now the five finalists must wait to hear whether they'll get this prime piece of Eastern Europe's air market. dpa ej pmc

Load-Date: October 5, 2005



Ryanair "ready to link Malta to 26 destinations"

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 20, 2005, Tuesday 16382116:38:21 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 142 words

Dateline: Valletta

Body

Low cost airline Ryanair says it is poised to link the island to 26 destinations including Seville, Oslo and Salzburg, if the local airport reduces charges.

Michael Cawley, Ryanair's deputy chief executive officer, told reporters in Malta Tuesday that Malta International Airport must first lower its landing charges from 19 euros per passenger it has offered to charge all airlines operating to certain destinations to around 7.50 euros - the average charged by other European airports.

Cawley said Ryanair could create up to 2,000 jobs in and around the airport within three years if the Maltese authorities cooperated, basing six aircraft on the island in return for a low-cost deal which would "save" Maltese tourism.

The island attracts some 1.1 million tourists a year, but average tourist spending is down, and stays are becoming shorter. dpa lg sc

Load-Date: September 23, 2005



Ryanair profits soar 21 per cent on passenger increase

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 2, 2005, Tuesday 07052507:05:25 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 138 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

Ryanair, Europe's biggest low-cost airline, registered a 21 per cent rise in net profits and a 35 per cent increase in sales in the three months to the end of June, based on higher passenger figures and an increase in the average price paid.

The Dublin-based no-frills airline said Tuesday its net profit in the period rose by 21 per cent to 64.4 million euros (78 million dollars) from a year earlier. Sales climbed to 404.60 million euros.

Despite its better-than-expected profit the company said it was "cautious" about the outlook for the rest of the year, citing record oil prices and concerns about further bomb blasts in London.

Ryanair said the price of jet fuel rose by 55 per cent during the first quarter compared with the same period a year earlier. Ryanair's fuel bill more than doubled to 110 million euros. dpa at ds

Load-Date: August 19, 2005



1ST ROUNDUP: Scotland Yard closes net on terror suspects

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 27, 2005, Wednesday 14305614:30:56 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 554 words

Dateline: London

Body

Scotland Yard Wednesday appeared to be closing the net on the terrorist cell involved in last Thursday's failed London bombings with the arrest of four men, believed to include a chief bombing suspect.

According to unconfirmed reports, 24-year-old Somalian Yasin Hassan Omar, is among the men arrested in early morning raids in Birmingham, central Britain.

Omar, who came to Britain as a 12-year-old and lived in the country legally, was named by police as one of the chief suspects in last Thursday's failed attacks, along with Muktar Said Ibrahim, a 27-year-old man from Eritrea.

Neighbours watching the massive police operation in the Hay Mills district of Birmingham early Wednesday said they had heard the name "Hassan" being shouted twice during the raids.

Witness Katy Stewart said she had seen four men "coming and going regularly" in a car over the last two weeks.

Last Saturday, two days after the failed attacks, the men had arrived with large black bags with quilts and pillows hanging out of the top of them.

"They would come at 2 a.m. and then when you looked in the morning, the car had gone", she said.

Police said one of the men, believed to be Omar, had carried a rucksack during his arrest, which was preceded by a "tussle."

Police said a Taser gun, discharging electric shocks, had been used in the arrest, but no firearms were deployed.

One of the men, believed to be Omar, had been taken to London for questioning at a high-security police station.

Omar, and Ibrahim were believed to have returned to a hide-out flat in London a day after the failed attacks.

Police said they had found "large amounts of chemicals" that could be used to make bombs during raids on the flat in a tower block in north London.

1ST ROUNDUP: Scotland Yard closes net on terror suspects

Late Tuesday, police arrested two men on a train from Newcastle in northern Britain, to London. But it was not immediately clear whether they were directly linked to the attacks.

A man was also arrested, but later released, during a security alert at Luton airport, north of London, Wednesday.

Police imposed a temporary air exclusion zone over the airport, used mainly by budget and charter airlines. It was understood that the man was boarding a Ryanair flight to Nimes, in France.

The hectic police activities followed a warning from London police chief Ian Blair that the bombers could be preparing another attack on the capital.

Blair said there had been 250 suicide bomb scares in London since the major terrorist attack on underground (tube) trains and a bus on July 7, in which 56 people died and 700 were injured.

Exactly two weeks later, on July 21, the capital was again on terror alert as four would-be suicide bombers placed rucksacks containing explosives on tube trains and a bus, which, however, failed to explode.

Experts said that if it was confirmed that one of the would-be bombers was among those arrested Wednesday, and if that person was prepared to cooperate with police, "this could be the beginning of the end" of the clampdown on those responsible.

The arrests came as Prime Minister Tony Blair discussed terrorism in separate talks in London with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Both leaders assured Blair of their full support, solidarity and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. dpa at sc

Load-Date: July 27, 2005



2ND ROUNDUP: Scotland Yard closes net on terror suspects

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 27, 2005, Wednesday 15315815:31:58 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 600 words

Dateline: London

Body

Scotland Yard Wednesday appeared to be closing the net on the terrorist cell involved in last Thursday's failed London bombings with the arrest of four men, believed to include chief suspect Yasin Hassan Omar.

According to TV reports, but not so far confirmed by the police, the 24-year-old Somali is among the men arrested in early morning raids in Birmingham, central Britain, Wednesday.

Blair said he was "greatly heartened" by the arrests which he described as an "important development" in the terror investigations.

He praised the police for their "exemplary hard work and commitment" in the task of tracking down the bombers.

Omar, who came to Britain as a 12-year-old and lived in the country legally, was named by police as one of the chief suspects in last Thursday's failed attacks, along with Muktar Said Ibrahim, a 27-year-old man from Eritrea.

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Load-Date: July 27, 2005



2ND ROUNDUP: Scotland Yard closes net on terror suspects

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 27, 2005, Wednesday 15560015:56:00 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 605 words

Dateline: London

Body

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Load-Date: July 27, 2005



ROUNDUP: European shares drop after London blasts

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 7, 2005, Thursday 12170312:17:03 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 325 words

Dateline: London

Body

Share values dropped sharply on stock markets around Europe on Thursday, with insurance and travel company stocks particularly taking a blow, in the wake of the series of bomb explosions in London.

While Europe's main markets had shed two to four per cent as of early afternoon, politicians urged calm and kept in touch with finance market authorities to monitor developments.

In Berlin, German Finance Minister Hans Eichel called for calm and said that finance ministers around Europe were staying in contact with central bank authorities.

"We should not contribute to the situation getting out of control by taking the wrong actions and reacting in panic," Eichel said about the repercussions of the bomb attacks.

"This is not going to unhinge the world economy," he said, noting that such price fluctuations as seen on the markets did not come as a surprise.

As of early afternoon, London's FTSE-100 index was down 3.4 per cent to 5053 points, with British Airways shares falling nearly 6 per cent to 256 pence.

In Paris, the CAC-40 was almost 3.8 per cent lower at 4119 points, while the EuroSTOXX 50 index had lost around 4.3 per cent by early afternoon.

In Frankfurt, the 30-share benchmark DAX had fallen around 3 per cent to 4480 points. Travel concern TUI plunged over 7.7 per cent to 19.45 euros, with a company spokesman calling the reaction of investors "irrational".

Lufthansa stocks had lost 4.6 per cent to 9.71 euros and reinsurer Munich Re dropped 5.4 per cent to 84.30 euros.

On the secondary MDAX index in Frankfurt, low-fare carrier Ryanair lost 6.5 per cent to six euros.

Gold prices meanwhile jumped in a typical market reaction to a sudden crisis. The fine ounce in London gained to 429.05 dollars, after opening at 423.50 dollars.

ROUNDUP: European shares drop after London blasts

At the same time, the dollar dropped, with markets quoting the euro at above 1.20 dollars in the early afternoon, up from morning quotations of 1.1935 dollars. dpa ds

Releads, new material throughout

Load-Date: August 19, 2005

End of Document



Ryanair to boost services from Germany to Portugal, E. Europe

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 28, 2005, Tuesday 03075903:07:59 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 85 words

Dateline: Stansted, England

Body

Low-fare carrier Ryanair is aiming to boost its services from Germany to other European destinations during the course of this year, the airline recently said in Stansted.

Starting October 30, Ryanair will provide daily flights from the small airport Hahn to Portugal, the airline said.

Meanwhile the airline is starting once-daily flights to the Slovak capital Bratislava, along with four flights a week to the Polish Baltic Sea port city Gdansk and three times a week to Rzeszow in southern Poland. dpa ds ct

Load-Date: June 28, 2005

End of Document



NEWS FEATURE: Sale of Lithuanian Airlines nears end

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 27, 2005, Monday 14061114:06:11 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 617 words

Dateline: Vilnius

Body

The Lithuanian government appears set finally to sell its loss-making national air carrier Lietuvos Avialinijos (LAL) at the second attempt, and to catch up with its Baltic neighbours which privatised their airlines several years ago.

The Lithuanian State Property Fund initialled an agreement for the sale of a 100 per cent stake of the country's national air carrier Lietuvos Avialinijos (LAL) last week, and plans to finalise the deal by the end of July.

So far the fund has not officially disclosed the name of the investor, but Fima, Lithuania's leading electronics and engineering systems solutions company, said it won the tender, outbidding three other competitors.

Fima says it offered to pay over 20 million litai (7.05 million dollars) for LAL and to invest up to 28 million litai into the company.

According to the privatisation conditions the potential investor was obliged to boost LAL's authorised capital by no less than 10 million litai within two years.

"Lithuanian Airlines will become profitable within three-to-four years," says Vaidas Barakauskas, president of Fima. "It will to be a serious competitor for both Baltic and central European airlines."

"We want to create a totally new concept for economy flights and to offer more high quality services for a low price," says Barakauskas.

While Firma's chief executive says that LAL will offer low-fare flights, these would be different kind of services compared to those currently offered on the market.

Because LAL will retain its status as national carrier, the airline's new owner also expects the government support in the competition.

A major part of the planned investment programme will be the acquisition and lease of new aircraft, the construction of a new hangar, which will service more clients and ensure an additional 3.5 million litai in revenue annually.

NEWS FEATURE: Sale of Lithuanian Airlines nears end

According to Barakauskas there is also a big potential for boosting cargo services.

In addition, the group is planning introduce greater automation into the airline as well as installing an electronic luggage control system, internet ticket sale network and a call centre.

To ensure the success in revamping LAL, Fima has signed cooperation agreements with a Lithuanian charter flight company Aurela and Tez Tour, an international travel agency of Russian capital, which specialises in organising tours to Egypt, Thailand and Turkey.

Aurela, which has Boeing 737-300, JAK-42D and Hawker HS125-700 type aircraft, flies to European, Asian and African countries.

Along with three Lithuanian companies and consortiums, an Icelandic investor Fengur, which runs cheap flight companies Icelandic Express and Sterling were competing to buy LAL.

LAL, which at the start of this year represented 48 per cent of regular flights operating from Vilnius airport, is facing an increased competition in the coming months from Ryanair.

The Irish low-fare airline is planning to launch flights from Karmelava airport near the nation's second-largest city of Kaunas.

Under the deal to buy LAL, Fima is to retain no less than 80 per cent of the airline's jobs for one year and will not be allowed to trade the stock of the company without the permission of the government for two years.

The new owner will have to take over LAL's debt of about 30 million litas.

LAL, which suffered a net loss of nine million litai in 2004, has forecast a 3.95 million litai profit this year.

The number of travellers jumped last year by 41.7, while sales rose 11.6 per cent to 222 million litai.

The airline has also entered 2005 on stroing footing with the number of LAL passengers jumping by 43.9 per cent In the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year. dpa egs jl amc sc

Load-Date: June 27, 2005



Budget airlines bring travel boom to Poland

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 9, 2005, Thursday 10044810:04:48 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 281 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

Poland has emerged as Europe's fastest growing airline market on the wings of an influx of budget carriers, with analysts noting ample room for further growth.

In 2004, its first year as a member of the European Union, Poland saw 9 million air travellers, a 26-per-cent increase over the previous year.

The boom appears to be in full swing with passenger traffic at Warsaw's Frederick Chopin International Airport, Poland's largest, up to 1.3 million during the first three months of the year, the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily reported Thursday.

The figure represents a nearly 25-per-cent increase over the same period last year.

Regional airports, however, are flying even higher with fresh passengers drawn by budget carriers.

Wizz Air's selection of the Pyrzowice Airport in the populous southern Polish Silesian coal basin as a base has paid off.

Passenger traffic during the first quarter of this year soared by 400-per-cent compared to the same period last year. Robust growth was also recorded at Krakow's Balice airport and at Lech Walesa Airport in the Polish Baltic port city of Gdansk.

Poland's Civil Aviation Authority predicts over 11 per cent growth in Poland's air travel market per year between 2006-09. While statistics show that more than 20 per cent of Britons and Germans travel by air, in Poland the figure remains at a low 3 per cent.

EasyJet, Centralwings, SkyEurope, RyanAir, Wizz Air, Aerlingus, German Wings are among the budget carriers flying high on the Polish market.

Established carriers such as the Polish national airline LOT, Germany's Lufthansa, British Airways, KLM or Air France also appear to be benefiting from the air travel boom, according to *Gazeta*. dpa sib wjh

Budget airlines bring travel boom to Poland

Load-Date: June 10, 2005

End of Document



NEWS FEATURE: CEE market deregulation sparks revolution in the skies

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 6, 2005, Monday 14013014:01:30 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 792 words

Dateline: Prague

Body

Rising prosperity, fast-paced market deregulation and an expanding travel industry have helped to trigger a revolution in the skies over Central and Eastern Europe.

Just over a year after the European Union (E.U.) was expanded to take in eight new Central and Eastern European (CEE) members, no-frills airlines are starting to replace schedule carriers as the major form of air travel and the Czech capital Prague is emerging as a major new hub for the budget aviation business.

Currently about 14 low-cost airlines fly into the Czech Republic with about five budget carriers jetting into Prague each day and as a result helping to boost tourist numbers in Europe's sixth-most visited city by a forecast of 10 per cent this year.

With Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) growing as a tourist destination and incomes rising in the wake of E.U. membership in May last year, the region's travel market is forecast to turn in solid growth in the coming years.

Indeed, the CEE budget airline boom has also lead to the emergence of a raft of home-grown no-frills carriers with airlines such as Romania's Air Blue, the Czech Republic's Smart Wings, Hungary's Wizz Air, Poland's Central Wings and Slovakia's SkyEurope Airlines currently criss-crossing Europe and competing with bigger rivals, including market leaders EasyJet and Ryanair.

Already parts of CEE are becoming key new competitors for the more established travel markets in Western Europe, consequently forcing some of the more prominent budget airline groups to abandon their wait-and-see approach to the new E.U. member states and to take the plunge in the region's new markets.

At the same time, governments across the CEE region have been moving to upgrade and to refurbish their airports to accommodate their new budget airline operators.

The number of tourists travelling from Britain to Prague is forecast to jump by 30 per cent in 2005 with UK-based Easyjet and Ireland's Ryanair now flying into the Czech Republic from a range of destinations throughout Britain.

With tourism rapidly developing as a key part of the Czech Republic's economy following the fall of communism in 1989, about 80 per cent of the Prague workforce is now directly or indirectly involved in the tourist trade.

NEWS FEATURE: CEE market deregulation sparks revolution in the skies

About 11 or 12 new hotels are opening in Prague each year with the number of overnight stays in the Czech capital hitting 10 million last year in a city of about 1.2 million.

This has sparked growing concerns that the sheer volume of visitors and often catastrophic traffic could be damaging Prague's historic heart. "The centre of Prague is overwhelmed," conceded Czech Tourism chief Miroslav Roncak.

Billing itself as Central Europe's first low-fare airline, SkyEurope Airlines now carries about 50 per cent of air travellers using Bratislava airport. At the same time, four-year old SkyEurope Airlines is launching 10 new routes and has ordered 32 Boeing 737-700 aircraft to be delivered over the next three years.

Up until the arrival of SkyEurope, Slovakia, which was forged only 12 years ago following the break-up of Czechoslovakia, did not have its own national carrier.

Hungary's Wizz Air, which has just marked its first anniversary and is one of about eight low-cost airlines servicing the new E.U. member state, is currently in the process of expanding its routes.

A recent report prepared by accountancy group KPMG found that about 14 per cent of Hungarians who plan to travel abroad in 2005 will use budget airlines, compared to five per cent last year.

But with only about three per cent of Poles flying regularly and wages expected to rise soon following the nation's recent run of solid economic expansion, analysts see the market, which is Central Europe's biggest economy offering strong growth potential.

The number of passengers handled by Warsaw's main airport raced ahead by 18 per cent last year.

In March, Ryanair added to its flights to Central European destinations such as Brno in the Czech Republic and the Latvian capital, Riga by launching regular services to Poland.

Apart from beefing up competition in the region's expanding budget airline business, analysts expect the Dublin-based carrier's new Polish connection to represent a step in its no-frills airline's expansion across Central Europe. At present, there are about seven low-cost carriers servicing Poland.

"If the number of flights increases in the Central and Eastern Europe region, we will set up a regional hub," said Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary.

In the meantime, Ryanair's arch-rival Easyjet has also mapped out a network of destinations across the region with flights to Poland's capital, Warsaw and the nation's historic city of Krakow as well as Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Riga and Tallinn. dpa amc sr

Load-Date: June 10, 2005



FEATURE: Baltic airports are taking off in the wake of E.U. accession

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 20, 2005, Wednesday 05062105:06:21 Central European Time

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Section: Politics

Length: 455 words

Dateline: Riga

Body

Russian airlines no longer rule the skies over the Baltic countries. The times when Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians had to travel via Moscow have gone for good.

European budget airlines are competing for the growing market for cheap foreign travel.

"Before accession to the European Union, the market was undersupplied. New routes and airlines offering lower prices are boosting passenger numbers considerably," says Yannis Capodistrias, spokesman for Easyjet.

In 2004 the airport of the Latvian capital Riga had to cope with twice as many passengers as in the previous year.

Now expansion plans proceeding at a rapid pace are intended to raise capacity to cope with the 2 million passengers expected this year.

Riga airport spokesman Andorijs Darzins says quality would be maintained, despite the furious rate of growth.

There are two aspects to this travel boom. Riga is regarded as the "Pearl of the Baltic" and also renowned for its Art Nouveau architecture.

Expanded travel facilities are allowing eastern Europeans to visit the West without the need for visas.

The flights are also bringing in tourists from the older members of the E.U. who come to experience what was closed off behind the Iron Curtain not so long ago.

The flights throw together odd travelling companions - Eastern Europeans working on the black market alongside Western pensioners in search of a new travel experience.

Airbaltic, the largest airline servicing the region advertises with the slogan that "the Europe without borders is growing closer together above the clouds".

The company, operated by SAS in cooperation with the Latvian state, contributed to deregulation with its low prices over the Internet even before Latvia joined the E.U. a year ago.

FEATURE: Baltic airports are taking off in the wake of E.U. accession

When Ryanair joined the battle for passengers to and from Riga, the airport was forced to cut its landing fees even further.

"We aim to be a hub," says Arnis Muiznieks, who works in the air section of the Transport Ministry.

By contrast, Bertolt Flick, the head of Airbaltic notes that the "myth" of Riga as an airport for passengers in transit has long been cultivated, even though only a couple of hundred passengers fly on to Vilnius and Tallinn, the nearest airports of any size.

"Passengers want to fly directly from one place to another," Flick says.

People in the sector are now watching events in Vilnius, where the Lithuanian government is attempting to privatize the state-owned Lithuanian Airlines.

Travel experts take the view that there is still room for expansion, despite the rapid growth of the recent past. That growth took place from a low base, they say.

In line with these expectations, the airports at Vilnius and Tallinn are also working on expansion plans. dpa jl rpm emc

Load-Date: April 20, 2005



Ryanair in-flight entertainment fails to take off

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 18, 2005, Monday 08310208:31:02 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 169 words

Dateline: London/Dublin

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair has abandoned a trial scheme of paid-for in-flight entertainment due to poor customer demand.

The airline said Monday it ended the service of films and music at an extra cost of five pounds (nine dollars) per flight after six months.

The no-frills carrier said an initial lack of availability of non-English language content programmes had contributed to the "disappointing" trial.

When Ryanair launched the scheme, chief executive Michael O'Leary reportedly described it as "the next revolution in the low fares airline industry" and said Ryanair expected to make enormous sums of money from it.

The company had hoped to have its entire fleet of more than 90 aircraft equipped by last month.

One industry analyst said he believed one of the problems of the scheme had been that flights were too short.

The Dublin-based group and other low-cost airlines have been searching for extra revenue earners in the face of tough conditions in the cut-throat European short-haul market. dpa at pmc

Load-Date: April 18, 2005



Irish low-fares carrier Ryanair to expand German base

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 14, 2005, Thursday 14561114:56:11 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 130 words

Dateline: Dublin/London

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair said Thursday it was planning to set up a new European hub in Luebeck, on north-west Germany's Baltic coast.

The Dublin-based carrier said it intended to invest more than 250 million euros (319 million dollars) to create a base at Luebeck, near Hamburg, for up to four new Boeing 737 jets operating 10 routes.

The move would eventually create up to 2,000 jobs and generate up to two million passengers a year through the airport, Ryanair said.

Realisation of the plans depends on a deal with the prospective new owner of Luebeck airport, New Zealand-based infrastructure investment group Infratil, Ryanair said.

The expected increase in passenger traffic would lift Luebeck into the top ten international airports in Germany, the company said. dpa at ms

Load-Date: April 14, 2005



NEWS FEATURE: Budget airline rivalry intensifies in eastern Europe

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 20, 2005, Sunday 04050004:05:00 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 619 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

The drive to open up the skies over Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is set to take another step forward Thursday when Ireland's budget airline Ryanair launches regular flights to Poland.

With CEE growing as a tourist destination and incomes expected to rise across the region in the wake of eight Central European and Baltic states signing up to the European Union (E.U.) in May last year, the region's travel market is forecast to turn in solid growth in the coming years.

Already parts of the region are emerging as new competitors for the more established travel markets in western Europe.

When Ryanair begins flying from London Stansted to Wroclaw Thursday it will also substantially beef up competition in the CEE expanding budget airline business with analysts expecting the new Polish connection to be represent a step in the Dublin-based no-frills carrier's expansion across the region.

Ryanair chief Michael O'Leary believes that if the airline can secure a booking rate of 75 per cent then it should be able to break even on the Wroclaw flights in three months. At present, there are about seven low-cost carriers servicing Poland.

"If the number of flights increases in the CEE, we will set up a regional hub," said O'Leary with a spokeswoman for the group saying that the airline was constantly negotiating with airports as part of possible expansion.

Ryanair already flies to Brno in the Czech Republic and the Latvian capital, Riga. The Czech Republic currently has about 14 low-cost airlines services.

Hungary's low-cost carrier Wizzair, which is one of about eight low-cost airlines servicing the new E.U. member state, is currently planning to introduce five new destinations by the summer.

At the same time, SkyEurope Airlines, which bills itself as Central Europe's first low-fare airline is hoping to increase in frequencies to most of the existing destinations as well as launching 10 new routes.

NEWS FEATURE: Budget airline rivalry intensifies in eastern Europe

This includes connections between several Central European hubs to Athens, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Manchester and Nice.

Now in the fourth year of its business, SkyEurope, which has bases in Vienna-Bratislava, Budapest, Krakow and Warsaw, carried more than one million passengers over the last 12 months with load factor averaging 73 per cent to 19 destinations in 12 countries.

Ryanair's arch-rival Easyjet also has mapped out a network of destinations across the CEE markets with flights to the Poland's capital, Warsaw and the nation's historic city of Krakow as well as Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Riga and Tallinn.

Dublin-based Ryanair, which hopes to build up a service of about 100,000 passengers on its new Britain to Poland route, could also expect to face some stiff competition from Polish home-grown budget carrier, Centralwings.

Operated by national Polish flag carrier, Lot, Centralwings has forged a deal to cooperate with Germanwings, an offshoot of the German flag carrier, Lufthansa.

With only about three per cent of Poles flying regularly and wages expected to start to catching up soon with the nation's recent run of solid economic growth, analysts see the market, which is Central Europe's biggest economy as offering possible growth potential.

The number of passengers handled by Warsaw's main airport raced ahead by 18 per cent last year.

That said, the Polish market has not been without its problems. Last year Poland's first low-cost carrier, Air Polonia shut its doors.

And earlier this month, Air Berlin, Germany's second-largest airline, announced plans to drop all flights to Poland, due to what it said was a lack of demand.

Air Berlin had previously flown between Dusseldorf and Warsaw and Vienna and Warsaw as well as Berlin and the Polish capital. dpa amc sc emc

Load-Date: March 20, 2005



Airlines cash in on extra luggageBy Jan Kuhlmann, dpa

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 25, 2005, Tuesday 03054703:05:47 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 520 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

Beware of turning up at the airline check-in desk with too much luggage: that extra weight can slice a huge portion from your travel budget.

Several major airlines charge hefty fees for those extra kilos in the suitcase - to the annoyance of consumer organizations.

"It bears no proportion to the price of the ticket," says Beate Wagner of a German consumer rights group.

Travellers really have no choice but to keep their luggage to the required minimum. Once you are at the airport protests are to no avail.

"Some airlines are tolerant, but they are not obliged to transport unlimited passenger luggage," Wagner says.

Permitted luggage weight limits are usually listed on the airline ticket, and travellers should make sure they have read the small print, Wagner says.

In economy class, the weight limit is normally 20 kilograms per passenger. During a stay of 29 days and longer the limit is mostly 30 kilos. Business and first class passengers can have more luggage. Flights to the United States usually also have higher weight limits.

The ceiling for hand luggage is meanwhile normally between six and ten kilos.

Most airlines allow a few extra kilos at the check-in counter but many airlines offering cheap discount flight are much stricter. For instance, the Irish budget carrier Ryanair allows only 15 kilos per passenger. Every extra kilo costs 7 euros (9.3 dollars).

Fees for extra luggage vary from airline to airline. Charter flights charge between 3 and 8 euros for every kilo.

Most other airlines charge the 1.5 per cent that was agreed by members of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Passengers pay 1.5 per cent of the economy class tariff for each extra kilo.

The basis of calculation is not the actual price of the ticket but the price of a single flight to the same destination under the most flexible conditions. That is in most cases the most expensive ticket.

It is not unusual for passengers to pay more than 30 euros for each extra kilo. One extra kilo on a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt to Bangkok can cost 38 euros.

Airlines reject the accusation of over-pricing.

"Luggage space is expensive," says Lufthansa spokesman Bernd Hoffmann. "Sometimes the effort (of taking more luggage) is huge and not seen by the passenger."

If the luggage hold is filled the airline sometimes has to buy luggage space from another seller. At short notice it gets expensive. Aircraft with more luggage also use more fuel.

But strong competition among airlines has led to many carriers transporting sports equipment at special conditions.

Charter airlines transport golf or diving equipment up to a weight of 30 kilograms without extra charge. A bicycle or surfboard costs between 30 and 60 euros extra. It is, however, better to ask the airline before starting the trip.

If a passenger needs that extra luggage it is often much cheaper to transport it as cargo. Lufthansa in such cases refers its customers to its cargo subsidiary.

Similar services are offered by logistics companies. Generally such luggage should be checked in several days before the customer's flight. dpa gms jku fo cr rg bw ct

Load-Date: March 3, 2005



Ryanair beats forecasts with record half-year profits

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 2, 2004, Tuesday 11:15:41 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 344 words

Dateline: Dublin

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair Tuesday posted a better-than-expected increase in profits for the first half of its business year. Europe's biggest low-cost airline said net income grew 18 per cent to a record 200.1 million euros (255.25 million dollars) in the six months to the end of September, compared to 168.9 million euros in the same period a year ago. The Dublin-based carrier said profits for the second quarter increased 15 per cent, with net income rising to 147.6 million euros from 128.4 million euros a year earlier. The result was better than analysts' forecasts of some 130 million euros for the three months until the end of September and around 187 million euros for the first six months. Higher passenger numbers - up by 24 per cent to 14 million in the second quarter - helped the no-frills airline increase its turnover by 21 per cent to 721.1 million euros. But the carrier said its outlook for the rest of the year was "cautious" because of the high price of oil. "These record traffic and profit figures show just how robust Ryanair's 'lowest fares' model remains even in a very difficult economic environment characterized by record fuel prices and intense price competition," Ryanair's chief executive, Michael O'Leary, said in a statement. O'Leary said "disciplined route growth" was central to the airline's record earnings, with 41 new routes opened during the summer season and two new bases in Barcelona and Rome exceeding expectations.

Five new destinations join the airline's programme during the winter: Riga, Latvia; Santander, Seville and Valencia in Spain; and Porto, Portugal. O'Leary forecast rival low-cost airlines would be "doomed" the longer the price of oil staid around 50 dollars a barrel. "Our prediction of a bloodbath and airline casualties this winter may be accelerated by record high oil prices as well as irrational competition," he said. Ryanair can absorb much higher oil prices than competitors thanks to "world record margins" and without resorting to surcharges, he said. dpa bw emc

Load-Date: November 2, 2004



AirAsia shelves Singapore plans after licencing delay

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 27, 2004, Wednesday 02072102:07:21 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 268 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Malaysia's AirAsia has shelved plans to start a budget airline in Singapore after rivals were given licences first although AirAsia applied earlier, Southeast Asia's largest no-frills carrier said on Wednesday. "No one in Singapore ever replied to us (about the air operator's certificate), so we take it as Singapore did not want AirAsia," chief executive Tony Fernandes told the daily newspaper *Streets*.

"So we have taken our investment elsewhere," he added. AirAsia recently entered the Indonesian market, buying defunct airline PT AWAir for a token 2 U.S. dollars. The carrier had applied for an air operator's certificate (AOC) in January. Fernandes said then its Singapore carrier would initially use two Boeing 737 aircraft to operate between 18 and 32 daily flights to six regional destinations. Tiger Airways, owned by Singapore Airlines, the government's investment arm Temasek Holdings, the founders of RyanAir, and a U.S. partner, started operations last month. It applied for the licence in March. Qantas-backed Jetstar Asia expects its licence early next month after handing in its application paper after AirAsia. The Civil Aviation Authority issued a statement saying it "prioritised the process of the various AOC applications based on the value-add and benefits the potential carrier can bring to Changi Airport and Singapore." AirAsia has been building up its hub in Johor and currently operates 63 flights a week. The carrier launched Malaysia's biggest IPO for this year last week, aimed at raising 272 million U.S. dollars to fund regional expansion. dpa ry gj

Load-Date: October 27, 2004



Tiger Airways boss quits less than a year after joining carrier

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 23, 2004, Saturday 02343602:34:36 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 275 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Tiger Airways boss Patrick Gan, in confirming he is leaving the budget airline, said in published remarks on Saturday the decision did not stem from problems with the board of directors. "New opportunities came up," Gan, who joined the carrier in January, told The Straits Times.

"I've had several good offers, but I'm still here because the board asked me to stay and help launch the airline," Gan was quoted as saying. Rumours of Gan's impending departure first surfaced in early September before Tiger launched its inaugural flights to Thailand. The launch of promotional, 1-Singapore-dollar flights to Bangkok, Phuket and Hat Yai overloaded the carrier's online booking system and caused a Web gridlock that shut down the reservation systems. An avalanche of complaints poured in from customers. Gan described the launch as "a huge success". Tiger Airways is a partnership between Singapore Airlines, Temasek Holdings, the founders of Irish low-cost airline Ryanair, and U.S.-based marketing and business strategy consultants Indigo Partners. The carrier confirmed on Friday Gan will be leaving the company. It said a replacement CEO would be appointed shortly. Gan said suggestions from industry watchers that he was asked to go by an unhappy board were not true. "I've put together a very rigorous structure and a strong management team," he said. "Tiger Airways will be a success." Gan's impending exit comes when the airline and Valuair, the two budget carriers operating out of Singapore, are working to find their respective markets as another airline, Jetstar Asia, prepares for take-off in December. dpa ry gj

Load-Date: October 23, 2004



Commercial flights between Berlin and U.S. resume - cut after 9/11

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 11, 2004, Monday 15491015:49:10 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 349 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

Two commercial airlines will begin direct service between Berlin and New York next year, ending the German capital's long-criticized lack of direct transatlantic flights, the U.S. airline Continental announced Monday. Continental will start flights from Berlin's Tegel airport on July 2 to Newark airport in New Jersey south of New York City. The U.S. airline Delta announced last week it will begin direct flights on May 2 between Berlin-Tegel and New York's JFK airport. Berlin has not had regularly scheduled direct flight to the United States since shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. when Lufthansa cancelled its direct service to Washington. A Lufthansa spokesman, Thomas Jachnow, said the German airline had no plans to resume transatlantic flights from Berlin. "The figures don't make it worthwhile for us," said Jachnow adding there are not enough first class and business class passengers flying to and from Berlin. Lufthansa operates most of its long-haul international flights from Frankfurt, Munich and also Duesseldorf. Hotel operators and others in Berlin have long complained that the lack of a direct transatlantic flight hurts tourism and commerce in the city. But wrangles over building a new Berlin airport have helped keep the German capital unattractive to major airlines. Plans for a new mega-airport have been discussed for 15 years - but neither the financing nor final building approval has been agreed for the multi-billion euro project. Meanwhile, the city's government is seeking to force the tiny downtown airport, Tempelhof, to close, despite offers by airlines to take over the operating costs.

Local residents don't like the noise of jets taking off and landing but business leaders strongly oppose the planned closure of Tempelhof which is mainly used by small aircraft on short flights within Europe. Aside from Tegel in former West Berlin, the city's other airport is Schoenefeld, the former East German airport, southeast of the city which is popular with low-cost airlines such as Easyjet and Ryanair. dpa lm ms

Load-Date: October 11, 2004



British low-cost carrier Easyjet says last quarter was strong

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 23, 2004, Thursday 07483107:48:31 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 162 words

Dateline: London

Body

British budget airline Easyjet predicted its 2004 profits would be higher than expected on the basis of improved trading in the fourth quarter. The airline, whose main hub is at Luton, north of London, said profits for the 12 months to end-September would top 60 million pounds (105 million dollars), some 16 per cent up on the figure for 2003.

In the face of stiff competition from rival Ryanair and the traditional flag carriers, the airline had warned in June that profits might just match last year's 52 million pounds. Cost-cutting measures were taking effect, Easyjet said. It plans to increase the number of aircraft in its fleet by about 16 per cent in 2005, down from the 24 per cent previously planned. Chief executive Ray Webster said: "I'm pleased to report the actions we're taking to strengthen our competitive position have begun to pay off." EasyJet said load factors had remained in the high 80 per cents during the summer. dpa rpm ms

Load-Date: September 23, 2004

End of Document



No frills carrier Ryanair rejects union claims

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 6, 2004, Monday 16404716:40:47 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 259 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

Head of no-frills carrier Ryanair Monday rejected criticism of its employment terms, and defended the airline's security record. "Ryanair has been the subject of many false and untrue claims in recent weeks up here in Scandinavia," Ryanair Chief Executive Officer Michael O'Leary told reporters.

The airline was targeted last week by members of the Swedish Salaried Employees' Union, HTF, who handed sick bags to passengers at four Swedish airports where the union had printed its demands that all low cost airlines should offer the same terms concerning minimum wages, overtime, insurance and pension rights. The union criticised the Irish-based airline for not signing collective bargaining agreements with HTF, which other low cost rivals had. O'Leary said he would not rule out such agreements in future "when a majority" of employees wanted that. O'Leary also criticized recent reports in Stockholm daily Dagens Nyheter citing alleged incidents involving Ryanair planes. He said that security was important for the airline, and that it had "20 years unblemished record on security." The editor-in-chief of Dagens Nyheter, Jan Wifstrand, said that the paper would not retract the reports. Deputy head of HTF, Bengt Ohlsson, said the union would shortly present Ryanair a draft for a collective bargaining agreement. HTF said it backed an international campaign coordinated by the International Transport Workers' Federation. The ITF has launched a website where Ryanair employees and others could get more information. dpa lsm bg

Load-Date: September 6, 2004



Union protests against no frills carrier Ryanair

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

September 1, 2004, Wednesday 09045309:04:53 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 196 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

No frills carrier Ryanair was targeted Wednesday in a protest by members of the Swedish Salaried Employees' Union, HTF. Passengers at four Swedish airports were handed sick bags where the union had printed its demands that all low cost airlines should offer the same terms concerning minimum wages, overtime, insurance and pension rights.

The union criticised the Irish-based airline for not signing collective bargaining agreements with HTF, which other low cost rivals had. Former Ryanair employees have claimed that their salaries were cut when they called in sick. Long working hours was a potential security problem, said HTF chairman Holger Eriksson in an op ed article in Stockholm daily Dagens Nyheter. "The likelihood for mistakes increases the more tired one is," Eriksson said. HTF said it backed an international campaign coordinated by the International Transport Workers' Federation. The ITF has launched a website (www.ryan-be-fair.org) where Ryanair employees and others could get more information. A section was also aimed at employees with tips how they could contact union representatives in their respective home countries. dpa lsm ms

Load-Date: September 1, 2004

End of Document



Alitalia shares tumble amid talks of collapse

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 24, 2004, Tuesday 12223012:22:30 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 181 words

Dateline: Milan

Body

Shares in Alitalia tumbled on the Milan stock exchange Tuesday, a day after its chief warned that the national carrier might collapse unless its restructuring plan is approved swiftly. Shares were down nearly 5 per cent by mid afternoon, having tumbled more than 6 per cent to an all-time low of 0.195 euros during morning trading. Investors were reacting to a warning by Chief Executive Officer Giancarlo Cimoli, who on Monday said the company urgently needs to cut jobs or face liquidation. Executive Massimo Chieli, responsible for human resources, told the financial daily Il Sole-24 Ore that Alitalia had just 20 days to live unless a deal is struck. The state-owned, loss-making company needs to reach a cost-cutting deal with unions by September 15 in order to receive a 400 million euro emergency loan it has been promised by the government. Alitalia said revenue over the busy summer season was 17 million euros short of its budget expectations and noted that its costs per passenger were 60 per cent higher than those of low-budget rivals Ryanair. dpa nr sr

Load-Date: August 24, 2004

End of Document



2ND ROUNDUP: British Airways, Virgin Atlantic announce price hikes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 9, 2004, Monday 15345015:34:50 Central European Time

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Section: Finance

Length: 374 words

Dateline: London

Body

British Airlines and rival Virgin Atlantic Monday announced they would more than double their fuel surcharges on long-haul flights, but short-haul carrier Ryanair said it had no plans to increase fares. BA said it would hike the surcharge on long-haul flights to six pounds (11 dollars) from the current 2.50 pounds. The increase comes into effect with bookings made from Wednesday and means a 12 pound increase on a return ticket. Virgin, which competes with BA on long-haul routes, followed suit, saying its fares would rise in similar fashion, also from Wednesday. The airline said it had acted "reluctantly", adding the decision had been taken "in light of the recent increases in the price of oil - which reached a new high last week". Ryanair, a major BA rival on short-haul flights within Europe, said it had no plans to introduce fuel surcharges. Communications head Paul Fitzsimmons said: "Every Ryanair passenger can rest assured that Ryanair guarantees no fuel surcharges - not today, not tomorrow, not ever." BA simultaneously reported pre-tax profits of 115 million pounds in the second quarter, against a loss of 45 million pounds in the same period last year. The results were better than expected and reflected a 5.1 per cent rise in revenues to 1.9 billion pounds. "Fuel prices have risen by 45 per cent in the last 12 months and our fuel costs are expected to be 225 million pounds higher than last year," BA said.

BA is leaving its surcharge for short-haul passengers at 2.50 pounds a flight. The airlines said it had set cash aside to meet the fuel costs and hedged almost three-quarters of its fuel bill to March next year. "These are reasonable results but currently fuel and employee costs remain our biggest challenges," chief executive Rod Eddington said. BA chairman Martin Broughton said market conditions remained unchanged. "Long-haul premium volumes are recovering steadily, while short-haul premium travel remains at lower levels. The non-premium markets are very price sensitive," he said. Cost-cutting remained core to BA's long-term strategy, he added. More than 8,000 BA ground staff are currently being balloted over strike action that could take place this summer. dpa rpm emc sc

Load-Date: August 12, 2004



ROUNDUP: British Airways announces price hike on oil costs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 9, 2004, Monday 08251808:25:18 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 349 words

Dateline: London

Body

British Airlines passengers are to face an increased surcharge to compensate for higher fuel costs, the airline announced Monday, as it posted a marked improvement in its results for the three months to end-June. BA said it would hike the surcharge on long-haul flights to six pounds (11 dollars) from the current 2.50 pounds. The increase comes into effect with bookings made from Wednesday and means a 12 pound increase on a return ticket. Ryanair, a major BA rival on short-haul flights within Europe, said it had no plans to introduce fuel surcharges. Communications head Paul Fitzsimmons said: "Every Ryanair passenger can rest assured that Ryanair guarantees no fuel surcharges - not today, not tomorrow, not ever." Virgin Atlantic Airways, which introduced 2.50 pound surcharges earlier this year, said it was keeping the issue of further possible charges "under review". The airline reported pre-tax profits of 115 million pounds in the second quarter, against a loss of 45 million pounds in the same period last year. The results were better than expected and reflected a 5.1 per cent rise in revenues to 1.9 billion pounds. "Fuel prices have risen by 45 per cent in the last 12 months and our fuel costs are expected to be 225 million pounds higher than last year," BA said. BA is leaving its surcharge for short-haul passengers at 2.50 pounds a flight. The airlines said it had set cash aside to meet the fuel costs and hedged almost three-quarters of its fuel bill to March next year.

"These are reasonable results but currently fuel and employee costs remain our biggest challenges," chief executive Rod Eddington said. BA chairman Martin Broughton said market conditions remained unchanged. "Long-haul premium volumes are recovering steadily, while short-haul premium travel remains at lower levels. The non-premium markets are very price sensitive," he said. Cost-cutting remained core to BA's long-term strategy, he added. More than 8,000 BA ground staff are currently being balloted over strike action that could take place this summer. dpa rpm emc

Load-Date: August 12, 2004



Cash-strapped SAS raises fares on some routes

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 26, 2004, Monday 13341513:34:15 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 239 words

Dateline: Copenhagen

Body

The cash-strapped joint Scandinavian carrier SAS has announced price hikes on several inter-Scandinavian routes in an effort to shore up earnings, reports said Monday. The hikes of up to 400 kroner (54 euros/65 dollars) take effect as of August 3 on the some 600 flights that depart or arrive at Copenhagen's Kastrup Airport.

The price hikes would affect flights operated by Scandinavian Airlines in Denmark, but not transatlantic flights or flights operated by SAS low-price company Snowflake. "The current prices are not viable. We may lose some customers, but are willing to do that if we can increase earnings as long as it doesn't effect market shares," deputy head of SAS Denmark, Jens Wittrup Willumsen told the Danish news agency Ritzau. SAS earlier this summer imposed a fee to compensate for fuel- hikes. Creating a national SAS company in Norway, Denmark and Sweden respectively was one of the recent measures approved by management to bring the SAS Group back into profit. Recently, SAS Chief Executive Officer Jorgen Lindegaard said that the carrier would not be able to post a profit for the current year. If SAS rivals do not hike their prices and SAS loses customers, the carrier would consider lowering prices again. Danish rivals Maersk Air and Sterling said they have no plans to raise prices, while Michael O' Leary, head of Irish-based Ryanair recently forecast even lower prices. dpa lsm bg

Load-Date: July 26, 2004



German carriers plan cooperation against Ryanair, Easyjet

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 5, 2004, Monday 11161711:16:17 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 261 words

Dateline: Hanover/Berlin

Body

In an increasingly competitive low fare and package tourism sector in Germany, the airline Air Berlin and the travel concern TUI said Monday they would cooperate in serving holiday destinations. A report in the Hannoverschen Allgemeine newspaper said the cooperation would chiefly serve holiday travel to Egypt and the Canary Islands starting with the next winter season.

The cooperation is seen as a move to meet the competition posed by such cheap-fare carriers as Ryanair and Easyjet, the report said. Easyjet is currently considering making Hanover a base of operations in Germany. Air Berlin as well as TUI's carriers Hapag- Lloyd Flug (HLF) and Hapag Lloyd Express have threatened to pull out of Hanover airport if Easyjet is given permission. At Hanover-based TUI and at Air Berlin in the German capital, spokesmen confirmed the newspaper report about the aim for close cooperation. While HLF is foreseen giving priority to the Canary Islands and Egypt, Air Berlin would chiefly concentrate on the Balearic Islands, Spain and Portugal. Aviation industry analysts say that such an alliance would provide TUI with a competitive advantage in being able to offer customers more flights and to raise seating capacity utilisation. Already, HLF and Air Berlin have coordinated with each other in their operations at Nuremberg airport. The envisaged closer cooperation follows on TUI's failed plans to take over Air Berlin, now Germany's second-largest air carrier after Lufthansa. The TUI spokesman Monday ruled out buying into Air Berlin now. dpa ds jm

Load-Date: July 5, 2004



Budget airline to offer 25 U.S. dollar Macau-Bangkok flights

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 28, 2004, Wednesday 06505706:50:57 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 259 words

Dateline: Hong Kong

Body

Budget airline AirAsia said Wednesday it will start offering daily flights from Macau to Bangkok for as little as 25 U.S. dollars each way from mid-June. The Malaysia-based airline will then offer daily flights to and from Kuala Lumpur by the end of the June for around the same price.

The cheap flights the first of their kind from Chinese soil are expected to prove a big lure for people from nearby Hong Kong, which is just an hour's ferry ride east of Macau. AirAsia CEO Tony Fernandez said he was now negotiating for passengers from Hong Kong to be able to bypass customs in Macau to get straight onto flights out of the southern Chinese territory. In an interview with Hong Kong radio station RTHK, Fernandez said he had spoken to Hong Kong airport officials about the possibility of direct flights but they had not seemed interested. "I haven't seen a lot of interest from Hong Kong airport to be honest," he said. "Airports are still living in the world of 'you want to fly here, fly here'. "There is certainly more of a monopolistic view that they don't need to go out there and get business and they don't have to adjust their model to adapt to new business models. "We did have some discussions but they were very preliminary and at the end of the day, Macau Airport was hungry and aggressive and we would rather work with that kind of partner." AirAsia is the first no-frills budget airline of its kind in the Asia region and aims to emulate the runaway success of airlines such as easyJet and Ryanair in Europe. dpa hp mw

Load-Date: April 28, 2004



SIA confident low-cost daughter Tiger Airways will hold its own

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 8, 2004, Thursday 01332501:33:25 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 217 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Singapore Airlines' chief executive in a published report Thursday is confident that Tiger Airways, his firm's low-cost arm, will hold up against mounting competition. "Before we decided to embark on it, we did our own studies and projections," Chew Choon Seng said, "and we think the model for Tiger Airways is a sustainable one and a viable one - one which has every probability of panning out like Ryanair in Europe."

A fourth low-cost carrier is the latest in eight months to announce its plans, backed by Australia's Qantas Airways and Temasek Holdings, the Singapore government's investment arm. It follows Malaysian-run AirAsia, which has already started operations; Valuair, set up by former SIA staff; and Tiger, SIA's own venture with Temasek, Ryanair and U.S.-based consultants Indigo Partners. The growing number is a "manifestation of how competitive the airline industry" has become, The Straits Times quoted Chew as saying. He said he did not know if the budget-carrier market was big enough for all the recent entrants. "At least four independent parties think it is," Chew said. "It might be big enough for some, but not big enough for others." Tiger Airways, scheduled to take off by the last quarter of this year, can hold its own, said the SIA chief. dpa ry ff

Load-Date: April 8, 2004

End of Document



Valuair will fly to Bangkok on maiden flight

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 1, 2004, Thursday 01105401:10:54 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 294 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Valuair's maiden flight will be to Bangkok when Singapore's first low-cost airline starts operating next month, a spokesman said on Thursday. The carrier will also fly to Hong Kong and Jakarta, but after that, the public will decide the carrier's destinations.

Valuair has asked respondents to an online poll to pick from Perth, Phuket, Hanoi, Bangalore, Madras and Xiamen. "The cities we've listed are all points we're looking to fly to at some point in the short to medium term, and they are all within a five-hour radius from Singapore," The Straits Times quoted the spokesman as saying. "We want to gauge demand on the ground before deciding on our destinations," he said. Valuair, spearheaded by former Singapore Airlines (SIA) chief executive Lim Chin Beng, has been collecting feedback since January through the poll at a travel website. The carrier, with a staff of 90, is waiting for an air operator's certificate from the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, necessary for it to operate commercial flights from Changi. Unlike low-fare Tiger Airways, Valuair said its passengers will be provided services such as meals on board and allotted seats. Tiger, which plans to take off in the second half of the year, was set up by SIA, state-owned investment agency Temasek Holdings, the founders of Irish airline Ryanair, and U.S. private investors. The plan is for Tiger Airways to operate a fleet of single aisle aircraft on regional flights under four hours from Singapore. Tiger and Malaysia's AirAsia are also waiting for air operator's certificates. Budget travel is becoming increasingly popular in the Asia-Pacific region. Analysts expect low-cost carriers to control about 25 per cent of this market in 10 years. dpa ry pr

Load-Date: April 2, 2004



Lufthansa plans service charge for tickets

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 29, 2004, Monday 08580008:58:00 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 333 words

Dateline: Frankfurt

Body

German airline Lufthansa, scrambling to recover from record losses, aims to charge a service fee on sales of its tickets in a move which some analysts said could backfire and drive customers even more to the low-fare airlines, reports said Monday. In the latest issue of the weekly magazine Focus, airline officials said Lufthansa, starting on September 1, aims to add a charge of 30 euros (36 dollars) per ticket on flights in Europe and 45 euros on intercontinental flights. The move would fall under Lufthansa's announced aim of listing ticket rates as a "net" price starting on that date. The service charge would apply to ticket sales online, at Lufthansa counters and at the airline's telephone reservation centres. Those booking online would continue, as now is the case, to get a 10-euro rebate. At the same time, Lufthansa aims to stop paying a commission to travel bureaux, leaving it up to them whether or not to pass the cost on to the customers. The savings on commissions would help the airline cut its costs by 100 million euros per year. Lufthansa lost a record 984 million euros in 2003, with the airline feeling the pinch not only from a sluggish economy and passenger worries about terrorism, but also the competition posed by low-fare carriers. Analysts were questioning the wisdom of Lufthansa's move to charge for a "service" which amounts to a normal procedure of selling a ticket, coming at a time when no-frills airlines like Ryanair and EasyJet are posing stiffer competition.

Some analysts point out that for the same cost as the service surcharge planned at Lufthansa, customers can make an online booking for a complete flight in Europe. In a commentary in the daily Die Welt, the paper called Lufthansa's move an "own goal" and criticised Lufthansa for "not even making the effort to provide a credible explanation". The paper said that it would not come as a surprise if Lufthansa were forced to quickly rescind the service charge. dpa ds cu

Load-Date: March 30, 2004



Tiger Airways awaiting licence to operate flights from Singapore

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 16, 2004, Tuesday 07555807:55:58 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 282 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Low-fare Tiger Airways has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) to operate commercial flights out of Changi Airport, company officials said on Tuesday. Set up by Singapore Airlines (SIA), state-owned investment agency Temasek Holdings, the founders of Irish airline Ryanair, and U.S. private investors Indigo Partners, Tiger Airways is aiming to take off in the last quarter of 2004.

Charlie Clifton, the airline's adviser, said Tiger is awaiting CAAS acknowledgement that it has accepted the application for an Air Operator's Certificate (AOC). "We started work on the AOC almost from the beginning," he told The Straits Times. The plan is for Tiger Airways to operate a fleet of single aisle aircraft on four-hour (flying time) or less flights from Singapore. Two other low-cost carriers also plan to be operating soon - Valuair, set up by SIA veteran Lim Chin Beng, and Malaysia's AirAsia. "We have been studying the rise and successful growth of the low fare airlines in America and in Europe, and have been evaluating the applicability of the low-cost, no-frills model in our part of the world," SIA said earlier. "Our conclusion is that it can succeed here as well," said officials from the national carrier. Budget travel is becoming increasingly popular in the Asia-Pacific region. Analysts expect low-cost carriers to control about 25 per cent of this market in 10 years. Despite its clobbering from the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) between April and June last year, SIA is aiming for a group profit of 600 million Singapore dollars (352 million U.S. dollars) by the end of March, the end of the fiscal year. dpa ry mw

Load-Date: March 16, 2004



Ryanair ordered to repay millions of euros in subsidies

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 3, 2004, Tuesday 14061414:06:14 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Politics

Length: 258 words

Dateline: Brussels

Body

Discount airline Ryanair has been ordered to repay millions of euros received in subsidies from Belgian authorities, following a European Commission ruling Tuesday. Ryanair boss Michael O'Leary called the decision a "disaster" which interfered with the free market and could force Ryanair to hike its ticket prices.

Ryanair has to repay between three and four million euros, after the commission ruled that the airline was offered illegal incentives to use Charleroi airport, south of Brussels. Ryanair received discounts on landing fees and other perks from local government. The commission said some of the discounts, estimated to be worth 15 million euros, were permissible as regional development support for the airport. Others, however, offered exclusively to Ryanair, were illegal, and "incompatible with the proper functioning of the internal market", the commission said. However, O'Leary insisted that the subsidies had been profitable for both Charleroi airport and Ryanair, and announced an immediate appeal to the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. However the commission for its part insisted its decision would help to create a level-playing field for all airline operators. "This legal decision is well balanced: it brings greater transparency into contractual relations between airlines and airports, especially regional airports," said Loyola De Palacio, E.U. transport commissioner. De Palacio conceded that the ruling could affect Ryanair's ticket prices by "six or eight euros per ticket". dpa sr sc

Load-Date: February 3, 2004



Budget carrier Ryanair ups fees after forced to pay for wheelchairs

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 30, 2004, Friday 16315816:31:58 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 285 words

Dateline: London

Body

Ryanair said Friday it would increase its ticket prices after a London court ruled in favour of a disabled man who sued the low-cost Irish carrier for charging him for a wheelchair. Bob Ross, 55, who suffers from cerebral palsy claimed the 18 pound (32 dollar) fee he was charged at Stansted airport near London in 2002 was discriminatory. The Central London County Court ruled in his favour and ordered Ryanair to pay 1,336 pounds, amounting to twice 18 pounds for the outward and home journeys, 300 pounds for a wheelchair subsequently bought by Ross and 1,000 pounds for injury to his feelings. Disabled groups welcomed the ruling, but a Ryanair spokesman said it was "defective". The company would in future charge every passenger 50 pence to meet the cost of providing wheelchair assistance at two British and two Irish airports where the airports do not provide it. Ryanair would also appeal, he said. Ross was dismissive. "I don't know why Ryanair are doing it. The point is they are making enormous profits and I feel they could absorb that charge without putting the price of their tickets up." The Disability Rights Commission, which backed Ross, said it demanded Ryanair pay compensation to 35 disabled people who have complained about paying the wheelchair charge during the past 12 months and threatened a group action. Ross, a regular flier, told the court he rarely used a wheelchair, preferring crutches or sticks instead, but that he found walking painful and the kilometre-long journey through the airport was too much for him. Ryanair this week indicated it expected a drop in its profits for the current financial year, prompting a fall in its share price. dpa rpm sc

Load-Date: January 30, 2004



Ryanair predicts profits will fall in current financial year

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 2004, Wednesday 10320910:32:09 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 173 words

Dateline: London

Body

Dublin-based low-cost carrier Ryanair predicted Wednesday its profits for the financial year to end-March would fall, despite announcing an increase in profits for the third quarter. The company, whose operations centre on Stansted Airport northeast of London, said cut-throat competition in the European market was likely to trigger a 10 per cent fall in net profits before exceptional items, to about 148 million pounds (265 million dollars) for the full year. Profits after tax in the third quarter to December 31 had risen 10 per cent to a record 33 million pounds, with passenger numbers up by 54 per cent to 6.1 million, it said. Chief executive Michael O'Leary said Ryanair was pleased with the results and that the airline continued to grow strongly and profitably. "Our response to these market conditions will be to continue to lower fares," he said. Ryanair expects European Union regulators to rule next week that it received illegal discounts from Belgium to fly to Brussels Charleroi airport. dpa rpm pmc

Load-Date: February 3, 2004



AirAsia faces government criticism over advertisements

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 4, 2004, Sunday 04461904:46:19 Central European Time

Copyright 2004 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 268 words

Dateline: Kuala Lumpur

Body

Malaysia's budget airline AirAsia has defended itself against criticism by the government that its advertisements which offer cheap airfares are misleading, news reports said Sunday.

AirAsia Chief Executive Officer Tony Fernandes said that other prominent budget carriers worldwide such as Europe's Ryanair and Virgin Blue in Australia used similar advertisements, the Sunday Star newspaper reported.

"Our advertisements are not cheating anyone," Fernandes was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Fernandes' comments came after Malaysian Tourism Minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir last week demanded a probe into AirAsia's newspaper advertisements, which he said were "misleading."

The advertisements generally offer fares that are steeply discounted compared to Malaysia's flagship carrier, Malaysia Airlines. But Abdul Kadir said the airline was not being truthful because some of the fares only applied to 30 per cent of seats available on each flight.

Malaysia's Ministry of Domestic Affairs says it is investigating the matter and has suggested that AirAsia introduce more detailed advertisements to explain its fare structure.

However, Fernandes said the current advertisements clearly stated that all fares were subject to availability and other conditions including booking and travel periods.

AirAsia has been an immense success in Malaysia since its launch in December 2001. Last month, it began its first international flight - to Phuket, Thailand - and officials say AirAsia will expand to more destinations in Thailand and Indonesia later this year. dpa wy me

Load-Date: January 4, 2004



Ryanair denied subsidies for Strasbourg-London flights

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 18, 2003, Thursday 12240012:24:00 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 172 words

Dateline: Nancy

Body

An appeals court in the northern French city of Nancy has rejected the request of Irish budget airline Ryanair to continue to receive subsidies to operate daily flights between Strasbourg and London, a clerk of the court said on Thursday.

In its decision, the court upheld a July 24 court decision annulling an agreement between the Strasbourg Chamber of Commerce and the carrier which provided for the subsidies.

In an attempt to sway the court, Ryanair had offered free flight tickets to the first 1,000 people who came and demonstrated their support of the company in front of the courthouse on the day of the hearing, December 9.

Some 200 people took them up on the offer, and left disappointed after being handed an Internet address where they could apply for the free ticket for a flight between the German city of Baden Baden and London.

Following the first judicial annulment of subsidies, Ryanair moved its regional base from Strasbourg to Baden Baden, where it will presumably remain. dpa sm sr

Load-Date: December 18, 2003



Singapore Airlines setting up budget carrier called Tiger Airways

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 9, 2003, Tuesday 14171914:17:19 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 359 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Singapore Airlines (SIA) announced on Tuesday it will set up a budget carrier called Tiger Airways with three other partners and begin flying next year.

The partners are the government's investment arm, Temasek Holdings, U.S. private investors Indigo Partners and Ryanair founder Tony Ryan's Irlandia Investments, SIA's statement said.

"The plan is for Tiger Airways to operate a fleet of single-aisle aircraft of one type, on flights up to under four hours from Singapore," the national carrier said.

"We have been studying the rise and successful growth of the low fare airlines in America and in Europe, and evaluating the applicability of the low cost, no frills model in our part of the world," SIA added.

"Our conclusion is that it can succeed here as well," the statement added.

Plans are to begin operations from Changi airport in the second half of 2004.

SIA stressed it has no plans to shut down subsidiary SilkAir, although it would not rule out the possibility of Tiger Airways flying to some SilkAir destinations.

Tiger Airways is Singapore's second budget airline to be announced after ValuAir, set up by Singapore Press Holdings chairman Lim Chin Beng.

ValuAir earlier said it plans to take to the skies by the second quarter of next year.

The capital structure for the new airline is being determined. "The SIA investment in it is likely to be immaterial relative to SIA's asset base", the statement said.

ValuAir plans to fly a fleet of Airbus 320s.

Budget travel is becoming increasingly popular in the Asia-Pacific region. Analysts expect low-cost carriers to control about 25 per cent of this market in 10 years.

Singapore Airlines setting up budget carrier called Tiger Airways

Clobbered by the plunge in travellers during the severe acute respiratory syndrome outbreak earlier this year, SIA laid off 26 pilots and 570 other staff, and release 145 other personnel on special retirement packages.

SIA announced a 306 million Singapore dollar (170 million U.S. dollar) profit in the July to September quarter.

It is aiming for a group profit of 600 million Singapore dollars by the end of next March, the conclusion of the fiscal year. dpa ry sc

Load-Date: December 9, 2003

End of Document



Ryanair offers 1,000 free tickets for judicial support

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 5, 2003, Friday 13422813:42:28 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 137 words

Dateline: Strasbourg

Body

British low-cost airline Ryanair has offered free flight tickets to 1,000 people who demonstrate their support for the carrier on December 9 at the appeals court in the city of Nancy, French media reported Friday.

"Fight the high prices of Air France," read Ryanair's insert in Thursday's edition of the daily L'Alsace. "Ryanair is campaigning to bring low prices to Strasbourg."

The insert then offers "free tickets" to the first 1,000 people to come and demonstrate in support of the company in front of the courthouse.

The court in Nancy is scheduled to hear the company's appeal against a July 24 court decision annulling an agreement between the Strasbourg Chamber of Commerce and the carrier that provided subsidies to Ryanair for operating daily flights between Strasbourg and London. dpa sm sc

Load-Date: December 5, 2003



Ryanair makes German airport second biggest hub

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 3, 2003, Wednesday 14055314:05:53 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 98 words

Dateline: Hahn, Germany

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair is to make Hahn airport near Frankfurt its second largest hub after London Stansted, the airline said Wednesday.

From January, Ryanair will be flying to 18 European destinations from Hahn which will overtake the airline's home airport in Dublin as its second biggest European hub.

The no-frills airline will be offering new services from Hahn to Tampere in Finland and Reus near Barcelona in Spain, but flights to Malmo in Sweden will be scrapped.

Erfurt in eastern Germany becomes the eighth German destination for the airline. dpa bw sc

Load-Date: December 3, 2003

End of Document



Budget airline to take-off in Poland next month

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 20, 2003, Thursday 14:43 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 264 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

Air Polonia is set to become the country's first budget airline to offer bargain no-frills flights between the Polish capital Warsaw and London, a company representative confirmed Thursday.

The cheapest one-way fare will set travellers back 55.55 zloty (14 dollars) plus airport taxes which will raise the ticket price to 145.55 zloty (37 dollars).

A round-trip ticket could cost 78 dollars.

Air Polonia will begin with three fights per week from December 15.

Another up-and-coming Polish budget carrier, the Silesian Air- owned GetJet, also plans for connections from Poland to London, Paris and Rome.

European Union-bound Poland was required to liberalize its rules governing air travel with E.U. countries in October. The new measures allow carriers to fly any route and to choose arrival and departure destinations.

Analysts predicted the move would encourage less-than-enthusiastic budget airlines to consider opening up operations in Poland, the largest country poised to enter the E.U. next May. High airport user fees deterred their interest in the past.

Budget carriers have already made inroads in other countries in the region, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Russia, Romania and Albania.

However, Ireland's Ryanair lost interest in routes to southern Krakow in southern Poland after the airport authority refused to lower its user fees.

Analysts predict Poland's flagship carrier LOT will be forced to reduce its fares. LOT recently became a member of the Lufthansa-led Star Alliance global airline network. dpa sib pmc

Load-Date: November 20, 2003

Budget airline to take-off in Poland next month

End of Document



British budget carrier Easyjet says profits fell

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 18, 2003, Tuesday 10:29 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 302 words

Dateline: London

Body

British low-cost carrier Easyjet saw its profits fall sharply for the fiscal year through September, largely as a result of the Iraq war, but forecast rapid growth in the year ahead.

The company, whose main hub is at Luton north of London, declared pre-tax profits of 52 million pounds (86 million dollars), down 28 per cent on the year.

Easyjet forecast growth of 20 per cent in the year ahead. The integration of 120 new Airbus aircraft was increasing frequency on its existing routes and allowing expansion to new hubs in Europe, it said.

The company showed costs of 7.9 million pounds from the integration of smaller rival Go, which it bought last year. It also had to write off 9.1 million pounds after passing up the option to buy Deutsche BA from British Airways.

As a result of the Go transaction, revenues rose 69 per cent on the year to 932 million pounds and passengers were up 79 per cent to 20.3 million.

Chief executive Ray Webster said the company's low cost business model had proved resilient despite the ongoing slump in civil aviation and he was "cautiously optimistic" about the performance in the current year.

The focus for the year would be on integrating 120 planes bought from Airbus last year in a surprise switch from Boeing.

EasyJet added 21 new routes in Europe during the year and announced earlier this month that it is planning to launch 11 routes from a new base at Berlin's Schoenefeld Airport.

Referring to a dispute between the European Union and Ryanair over the subsidies the Dublin-based carrier receives for flying to Charleroi in Belgium, Webster said this would not affect Easyjet.

"Our business model does not rely on the smaller publicly-owned airports that Ryanair has made its bases in continental Europe," he said. dpa rpm jm

British budget carrier Easyjet says profits fell

Load-Date: November 18, 2003

End of Document



Austria's air pioneer Lauda to launch new venture this month

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

November 9, 2003, Sunday 14:20 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 237 words

Dateline: Vienna

Body

Former Formula One motor racing star and airline owner Niki Lauda said on Sunday he will launch his latest aviation venture on November 28.

Lauda, who recently took over the small airline "Aero Lloyd- Austria", said he would start with a single Airbus, which would have six charter flights weekly from Vienna to Egypt, the Canary Islands and Madeira carrying vacationers on behalf of a major tour company.

Lauda said in the newspaper Kleine Zeitung, published in Graz and Klagenfurt, he had not thought of a new name for his airline yet.

In another interview, with the magazine Profil, he said: "As the first thing, I want to set up a cost structure which is 30 per cent below the level of Ryanair and EasyJet." Initially he would lease staff as well as aircraft, he said.

Lauda, aged 54, who has an airline captain's licence, said he wanted to fly again himself, and might possibly already do so on November 28.

He did not know yet whether he would manage to have himself retrained in time from Boeings to Airbuses. "But if I'm in the cockpit, then it will, as formerly, be the best advertisement for my airline - also I am the best quality control."

Lauda often piloted flights of his former airline Lauda Air, which he founded in 1979. In 2000 he was ousted in a power struggle with majority owners Austrian Airlines (AUA), which has since taken over the whole of Lauda Air.

dpa qu sc

Load-Date: November 10, 2003



Ryanair seeks to expand in Germany

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 23, 2003, Thursday 14:38 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 224 words

Dateline: Dusseldorf

Body

Irish low fares airline Ryanair wants to expand its operations to Germany where the company is continuing to show strong growth, it said Thursday.

Caroline Baldwin, the airline's Germany sales manager, said it was seeking to fly to three or four more German destinations in the medium term, with demand growing particularly in eastern Germany.

At present Ryanair flies to seven German destinations, and expects 2003/2004 business year results to show a 50-per-cent increase in passenger numbers to 4.45 million to and from German airports.

Ryanair claims that as a result of its German activities it had created about 4,000 jobs mainly through other companies providing airport services.

On Wednesday it won the right to have Niederrhein airport recognized as a Dusseldorf airport in the international booking system despite opposition from German carrier Lufthansa and Dusseldorf International Airport.

The German government and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have both recognized Niederrhein as Dusseldorf's third airport after Dusseldorf and Moenchengladbach.

Ryanair said that in August it carried more passengers than Lufthansa on the London-Dusseldorf route which it began serving in May. It expects to fly almost 300,000 passengers on the route in the first year of operation. dpa bw sc

Load-Date: October 23, 2003



Poland to loosen restrictions on E.U. air travel

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

October 16, 2003, Thursday 11:08 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 206 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

European Union-bound Poland is set to liberalize its rules governing air travel with E.U. countries, a Polish newspaper report said Thursday.

Due to take effect on October 26, the new measures will allow carriers to fly any route and to choose arrival and departure destinations.

They are also expected to remove passenger capacity and pricing restrictions, according to the "Puls Biznesu" daily.

The move may encourage less-than-enthusiastic budget airlines to consider flying to Poland, the largest country poised to enter the E.U. next May. So far high airport user fees have deterred their interest.

Budget carriers have already made inroads in other countries in the region, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Russia, Romania and Albania.

However, Ireland's Ryanair lost interest in routes to the southern Krakow in southern Poland after the airport authority refused to lower its user fees.

The liberalization is welcome news for up-and-coming Polish budget carriers like the Silesian Air-owned GetJet, which already has plans for connections from Poland to London, Paris and Rome. Poland's flagship carrier LOT will most likely have to reduce fares, the newspaper reported. dpa sib bg pb

Load-Date: October 16, 2003



Wrangles over Berlin airports as cut-price airlines move in

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 22, 2003, Friday 10:41 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 522 words

Dateline: Berlin

Body

Efforts by cut-price airlines to seek improved access to the German capital have sparked further debate over Berlin's three airports and the possibility of opening a fourth at a former Nazi airbase outside the city, reports said Friday.

Plans to build a mega-airport for Berlin by 2007 collapsed earlier this year after a decade of negotiations failed to yield a deal on private construction and operation of what is to be called Berlin - Brandenburg International.

Officials insist the new airport will be built with state funds but few observers believe it is feasible, given that Berlin's local government is, in effect, bankrupt with 50 billion euros (55 billion dollars) of public debt.

Conservative opposition leaders predict the airport will not open until 2013 and accuse the city's leftist government of Social Democrats and post-communists of failing to present a serious financing concept.

This means that, for years to come, Berlin will rely on its present three airports - the former West Berlin airport Tegel, which is used by most commercial operators, as well as the former East Berlin airport Schoenefeld and tiny Tempelhof airport just south of the city centre.

The lengthy delay in building a new mega-airport has fuelled interest in alternatives.

In a surprise move, the airline Deutsche BA - which British Airways sold to a German investor earlier this year - has offered to lease the entire Tempelhof airport for its 40 daily flights to and from Berlin.

The Berlin Airport Holding which runs all three airports would be delighted to dump Tempelhof because it ran up losses of 13 million euros last year.

Leasing Tempelhof to Deutsche BA (or dba as the airline now calls itself) may possible for a limited time, says the federal government which owns most of the airport.

But, according to the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper, the government wants to sell the whole complex for 150 million euros.

Wrangles over Berlin airports as cut-price airlines move in

Tempelhof was to have been shut down in 2004 under the failed mega-airport privatization framework. The closure was partly to eliminate competition and partly because Tempelhof's flight paths cross densely populated areas.

Cut-price Irish carrier Ryanair has also been making waves since it began flying between Berlin and London earlier this year.

Ryanair wants to start operating from an airfield built in 1937 by the Nazis and later used by the communist East German government at Neuhardenburg, about 70 kilometres east of the city.

Officials in the state of Brandenburg, where the airport is located, strongly back the plan.

But Berlin's city transport senator, Peter Strieder, is furious and has vowed to torpedo the move.

Berlin leaders fear that opening a fourth airport near the city would destroy the remaining chances of ever winning funds to build the planned major airport.

Meanwhile, passengers flying to and from Berlin look set to suffer from limits on service for at least another decade.

Berlin does not have a single direct flight to the United States forcing many international passengers to fly via Frankfurt or Munich. dpa Im cu

Load-Date: August 22, 2003



Poland keen to land budget airlines

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 22, 2003, Friday 12:03 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 365 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

A Polish government minister has vowed to do all that he can to attract budget airlines such as Ryanair or EasyJet to the capital, Polish media reported Friday.

"We'll do everything in our power to attract low fare airlines" to Warsaw, Poland's Deputy Minister for Infrastructure Andrzej Pilat said, the "Zycie Warszawy" daily quoted him as saying.

Poland's southern tourist haven Krakow and a fledgling Katowice- based airline are honing plans for bargain flights to attractive European destinations. The Polish government jumped into the fray this week to try and retain Warsaw's primacy on the country's air travel market.

Pilat said his ministry had plans to set up a new joint company with Poland's state-run Przedsiębiorstwo Porty Lotnicze (PPL) airport monopoly, specifically to serve budget carriers. Responsible for most of Poland's commercial airports, PPL has so far reportedly refused to open negotiations with budget airlines.

The capital currently commands 75 per cent of Poland's air traffic, with some 6 million passengers using Warsaw's Frederick Chopin International airport every year.

Earlier this week, officials in Krakow pushed ahead with ambitious plans to build a second airport in the city, ready to serve budget carriers within a year's time.

Based in the southern mining city of Katowice, fledgling Polish airline "Silesian Air - GetJet", is promising tempting roundtrip fares of 99 zloty (25 dollars) to Rome, Paris and London beginning this autumn. Low fare connections to Brussels, Milan, and destinations in Germany and Scandinavia are also on the cards, the carrier says.

Airfields in both cities command only a fraction of air traffic in Poland, with Krakow landing 7.6 per cent while Katowice commands only 3 per cent at present.

Other centres also lag far behind with the Baltic port city of Gdansk taking 5 per cent of air traffic, Wroclaw, in the southwest commanding 4 per cent of flights, Poznan in the west, taking 3.5 per cent of air traffic and Szczecin in the northwest commanding 1 per cent.

Poland keen to land budget airlines

Poland is the largest of 10 mostly former communist countries set to join the European Union next May. dpa sib pb

Load-Date: August 22, 2003

End of Document



Polish tourist haven Krakow tempts budget carriers with new airport

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 20, 2003, Wednesday 11:41 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 310 words

Dateline: Warsaw

Body

City officials from the southern Polish tourist haven of Krakow and the Polish Defence Ministry are teaming-up to create a new airport for the city intended to draw budget airlines into Poland, the country's top-selling Gazeta Wyborcza daily reported Wednesday.

Budget European flyers like Ryanair and Easyjet have stayed away from future European Union member Poland, largely due to the high airport costs dictated by Poland's state-run Panstwowe Porty Lotnicze (PPL) airport conglomerate, the paper said.

The first step to breaking the PPL monopoly was taken this week by Poland's Ministry of Defence when it agreed to hand over a 10 hectare parcel of land near Krakow's current Balice airport to the city. The land will be used for the development of a new 20 million zloty airport, boasting user fees set to tempt budget flyers into Krakow.

"Finally the last hurdle to bringing budget airlines here is disappearing," Krakow Mayor Jacek Majchrowski said, quoted by Gazeta. According to the mayor the project will be financed by both public and private capital and has already drawn private investors.

Despite being keen on operating what promises to be a busy Krakow connection, Irish budget carrier Ryanair dropped plans to fly into the city when airport officials refused to even discuss preferential rates. PLL's intransigence on the issue raised the ire of Krakow's considerable hotel and tourist sector keen to boost trade.

With a new airport now clearly visible on the horizon, Ryanair may use Krakow as its Eastern European base with connections to Stockholm and London at a fraction of the cost of existing carriers, Gazeta reports, quoting unofficial sources.

Poland is the largest of 10 predominantly East European countries scheduled to join the European Union in a big bang enlargement on May 1, 2004. dpa sib sr

Load-Date: September 17, 2003

Polish tourist haven Krakow tempts budget carriers with new airport

End of Document



No-frills Ryanair scorns mainstream rivals as profits show rise

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

August 5, 2003, Tuesday 09:47 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 323 words

Dateline: London

Body

Soaring passenger numbers boosted budget airline Ryanair to a solid rise in profits for the second quarter, according to figures released in London Tuesday.

Europe's largest no-frills airline declared a 12 per cent rise in profits on the year to 43.8 million euros for April to June. Turnover was up by more than a quarter to 245.2 million euros.

Outspoken chief executive Michael O'Leary poured scorn on his main rival, British Airways, following its announcement of a substantial loss for the period.

"During what BA last week described as the most testing period in aviation history, we continue to drive down airfares, reduce costs, but at the same time deliver increased profits and exceptional margins," O'Leary said.

Ryanair said passenger volume had grown 45 per cent to 5.1 million and 50 new routes had been launched.

O'Leary said current trading was in line with expectations and profits were set to grow "materially" in the current financial year, although yields could not continue to match those achieved last year.

The number of empty seats on Ryanair's flights has risen in recent months, with load factor at 78 per cent, down from 83 per cent a year ago. O'Leary attributed the decline to the new routes.

Analysts noted that Ryanair's focus on Europe had protected it from the effects of the Iraq war and the SARS epidemic in Asia.

Confirming the company's policy, O'Leary told the BBC he had no desire to fly longhaul and that the best market was in Europe.

On Monday, the Dublin-based company, whose main hub is at Stansted north of London, published figures showing it had broken through the two million passenger mark in July alone - a first for any low cost airline outside the United States.

No-frills Ryanair scorns mainstream rivals as profits show rise

It carried 2,038,896 people in July at a time when thousands of British Airways passengers were stranded because of a strike by ground staff at London's Heathrow airport. dpa rpm jm

Load-Date: August 5, 2003

End of Document



Lufthansa says business flyers making comeback to Asia

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

July 19, 2003, Saturday 01:27 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 235 words

Dateline: Singapore

Body

Business travellers are making a comeback to Asia now that the SARS outbreak is over, a Lufthansa executive said in a report on Saturday.

The German carrier is seeing a double-digit rise in bookings to the region and near-full planes to Singapore, said Thierry Antinori at an industry dialogue here.

The daily nonstop flights between Frankfurt and Singapore are now more than 90 per cent full, Antinori told an industry dialogue on Friday.

"The business is picking up," The Straits Times quoted him as saying. "In some markets, yields are improving again because there's a catch-up for business travel."

Europe's third-largest carrier, whose flights to Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Singapore were the worst hit during the height of the severe acute respiratory syndrome, had reduced scheduled flights on some Asian routes by up to 80 per cent.

Top Lufthansa executives are visiting Asia, which makes up 15 per cent of its sales, as "an act of solidarity with the people and the industry here," said Juergen Weber, chairman of the carrier's supervisory board.

China is the next stop.

Weber said emerging budget carriers could carve out a new secondary low-end market.

He maintained they will not be able to take on the big players as travellers will increasingly demand higher quality.

Lufthansa's low-cost competitors in Europe include easyJet and Ryanair. dpa ry pr

Load-Date: July 19, 2003

Lufthansa says business flyers making comeback to Asia

End of Document



The stress of flying economy class

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 10, 2003, Tuesday 03:07 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 275 words

Dateline: Hamburg

Body

Flying is an uncomfortable business. Cooped up in a confined space means on longer trips for so long that the back hurts, the shoes no longer fit and the tongue feels it is made of rubber.

Some passengers vow never again. But then the discomfort is slowly forgotten and, when the next holiday comes around, they are ready to fly off again.

The main cause of the discomfort is the seating in economy class. Cut-price airline Ryanair has seats with just 76.2 centimetres from the front of one headrest to the back of the next. British Airways has a configuration for long-haul flights with 79 centimetres while Lufthansa, depending on aircraft, offers between 79 and 86 centimetres, JAL 81 to 86 centimetres and Air France 81.3 to 86.4 centimetres.

The seats at exits have more room, but a tip here is not to request the seat on the grounds that the feet are painful. Think of some other reason. People occupying these seats must be mobile in the event of an emergency. That is why these places are generally allocated only after arrival at the airport, a Lufthansa spokesman said.

A psychologist has come up with the reason economy class travel is so wearying. Sascha Thomas offers, on behalf of Lufthansa, seminars for relaxed flying. He comes to the hardly surprising conclusion that too many people sit far too long together in a restricted space with too little to drink. With differences in temperatures between one place and another, and times, passengers "are simply physically finished" when they arrive wherever they are going.

The alternatives are to fly first or business class or not to fly at all. dpa ut ct

Load-Date: June 18, 2003



Ryanair posts strong profits, says strong euro endangers future

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 3, 2003, Tuesday 06:33 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 240 words

Dateline: London

Body

Ryanair announced a sharp rise in profits for the year to end-March, but warned Tuesday that expansion of its routes and the strong euro would hit profits in the current year.

The Irish-run low-cost carrier, whose main hub is at Stansted north of London, declared an after-tax profit of 239.4 million euros, almost 60 per cent up on the 150.4 million euros made last year.

Pre-tax profits rose by more than 50 per cent to 266 million euros.

Passenger traffic grew by 42 per cent to 15.7 million and the airline's planes were 84 per cent full compared with a figure of 81 per cent in the previous period.

Measured by passengers carried, the airline now claims to be the third-largest in the world.

"These results demonstrate how robust Ryanair's lowest fares business model is in Europe," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said.

He cited high fuel prices, the Iraq war, the impact of SARS and the continuing global downturn as negative factors.

"Despite these difficult conditions Ryanair's continued profitability stems from the fact that we have the lowest costs and the lowest air fares, which no other European airline can match," O'Leary said.

Ryanair planned to carry more than 30 million international scheduled passengers a year within the next three years, he said, adding that, even with lower fares, it expected to record a 16th successive year of profits for the current year. dpa rpm jm

Load-Date: June 18, 2003



ROUNDUP: Ryanair posts profits rise, warns strong euro will hurt

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 3, 2003, Tuesday 10:55 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 486 words

Dateline: London

Body

Ryanair announced a sharp rise in profits for the year to end-March, but warned Tuesday that expansion of its routes and the strong euro would hit profits in the current year.

The Irish-run low-cost carrier, whose main hub is at Stansted north of London, declared an after-tax profit of 239.4 million euros, up 59 per cent on the 150.4 million euros made last year.

Pre-tax profits rose by more than 50 per cent to 266 million euros.

The company's share fell 27.5 pence to trade at 412 pence in London shortly before midday.

Passenger traffic grew by 42 per cent to 15.7 million and the airline's planes were 84 per cent full compared with 81 per cent in the previous period, although occupancy could drop to 80 per cent in the current year, the company said.

"These results demonstrate how robust Ryanair's lowest fares business model is in Europe," Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary said, but he warned the current margin of 28 per cent could not be sustained.

"Shareholders should be aware that these results for the past 12 months have been exceptional. We have repeatedly stated that profit margins of almost 30 per cent are a one-off and non-sustainable," he said.

The business plan aimed at increasing traffic by an average by 25 per cent a year and maintaining after-tax profits at around 20 per cent, O'Leary said.

Regarding problems facing the sector, O'Leary pointed to high fuel prices, the Iraq war, the impact of SARS and the continuing global downturn as negative factors.

"Despite these difficult conditions Ryanair's continued profitability stems from the fact that we have the lowest costs and the lowest air fares, which no other European airline can match," O'Leary said.

ROUNDUP: Ryanair posts profits rise, warns strong euro will hurt

Ryanair planned to carry more than 30 million international scheduled passengers a year within the next three years, he said, adding that, even with lower fares, it expected to record a 16th successive year of profits for the current year.

Ryanair, flying 125 routes this summer after buying Buzz, expects to overtake British Airways and Lufthansa as Europe's largest internationally scheduled airline within three years.

It has firms orders on 125 and options on 125 aircraft, all from Boeing, and is predicting that passenger numbers will rise to 24 million in 2003-4 from 15.7 million in 2002-3.

O'Leary pledged to continue his assault on the traditional airline sector with aggressive fare-cutting.

"Our aim is not to kill anyone, but it is to grow aggressively. We're going to destroy the airline business as we know it," he told the Reuters news agency.

"In two years' time we will be the world's largest international scheduled airline."

In Germany, one of its important markets, the company announced it planned to establish two new hubs in addition to Hahn near Frankfurt. It is also talking to airports in eastern European countries. dpa rpm jm

Load-Date: June 18, 2003



Schedule for Tuesday, June 3, 1400 GMT

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

June 3, 2003, Tuesday 13:37 Central European Time

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Length: 636 words

Body

----- All times GMT/ If you have any questions about the news schedule or need items repeated please call dpa:

(0600-2000 GMT) CorkTel: 00353-21-422-3504 Fax: 422-3519 (2000-0600 GMT) WashingtonTel: 001-202-662-1260Fax: 662-1270 -----

ROUNDUPS PLANNED:

Sharm el- - Bush seeks Arab support for road map to peace Sheikh (Mideast-Conflict/1600)

Paris/ - Public sector strikes disrupt French and Austrian Vienna transport (Europe-Strikes/1600)

Madrid - NATO does not exclude role in Iraq peacekeeping (NATO-Ministers/1600)

ROUNDUPS MOVED:

London - Ryanair posts profits rise, warns strong euro will hurt (510 words/Britain-Aviation)

Beijing - China shares "harsh lessons" of SARS at ASEAN forum (450 words/China-ASEAN-SARS)

Yangon - Myanmar's ruling junta refuses to release opposition leader (410 words/Myanmar-SuuKyi)

Seoul - S.Korea's navy again fires warning shots at N.Korean boat (300 words/S.Korea-N.Korea)

No dateline - LEADALL: G8 sends upbeat message on global economy. By Deutsche Presse-Agentur (800 words/G8-Summit)

SPORT MOVED:

TENNIS Paris - NOTEBOOK: Clijsters says she and Hewitt have talked marriage (220 words/Tennis-French)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDS PLANNED:

dpa-SPECIALS:

Schedule for Tuesday, June 3, 1400 GMT

Hamburg - Peugeot to market a sports version of its 206 model (170 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305 Wednesday)

Cagliari, - New BMWs fitted with gauge which constantly monitors Sardinia tyre pressure (230 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305)

Munich - New fuel injection system to cut diesel emissions 0 (120 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305)

Detroit - 100 years this month since Henry Ford began the motor revolution. By Thomas Geiger (610 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305)

Hamburg - Some catalytic converters said designed to cut out at high speed (340 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305)

Cologne - Buyers of used motorcycles warned to check paintwork (100 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Cars/after 0305)

BYLINERS AND BACKGROUNDERS MOVED:

Bangkok- ANALYSIS: Myanmar junta ends flirtation with moderation. By John Hail (865 words/Myanmar-Democracy)

Los Angeles- ANALYSIS: Big Media could get bigger under change in ownership rules. By Andy Goldberg (900 words/US-Media-Politics)

Washington- FEATURE: The computer helper: New chips, new questions. By Jay Dougherty (770 words/US-Computers)

Panama City- PREVIEW: World holds its breath for choice of most beautiful woman. By David Carrasco (600 words/Panama-MissUniverse)

Damascus- FEATURE: Intellectuals petition Syrian President Assad for reforms (400 words/Syria-Reforms)

Taipei - NEWS FEATURE: Taiwan-based dissidents divided over China's future. By David Chang (810 words/Taiwan-Tiananmen-China)

Jerusalem - EXTRA: Main points of "road map" Middle East peace plan (580 words/Mideast-Conflict)

Cuxhaven, - EXTRA: Special German vessels to help combat Swedish Germany oil spill (225 words/Sweden-OilSpill)

dpa-SPECIALS moved:

Sydney- Cruises with containers for company. By Sid Astbury (520 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel)

Nuku'alofa,- Watching whales and battling hurricanes Tongain the South Pacific (540 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel)

Neu-Isenburg, - Travellers warned to consider risk of catching rabies Germany(420 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel)

Sydney- Hot-air balloons in trial flights for world title (470 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel)

St. John's,- Jersey in full bloom Jersey(145 words/dpa-SPECIAL-Travel)

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Load-Date: June 18, 2003

Schedule for Tuesday, June 3, 1400 GMT

End of Document



SAS cuts 4,000 jobs in major new savings round

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

April 10, 2003, Thursday 12:39 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 269 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

The joint Scandinavian airlines SAS announced plans on Thursday to cut a further 4,000 jobs as part of a new round of savings to keep the financially-strapped carrier aloft.

SAS, controlled by the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish states, said it needed to cut costs by up to 8 billion kronor (944 million dollars) over and above the 12.8 billion kronor in savings already slated through 2005.

SAS since September 2001 already has let go some 3,500 employees, and the new reductions over the next 18 months will hit both pilots, administrative, sales, cabin and ground personnel, the company said during a meeting with representatives from 38 unions involved in the three ownership countries.

The salaries of some 2,000 pilots will be frozen with the flying time being increased from 10.5 hours to 12-14 hours per day depending on the number of flights.

The pilots have accepted a deal that means basically they have to fly more for considerably less money, but it remains to be seen whether the other personnel groups' unions will accept the separate offers made to them.

SAS CEO Joergen Lindegaard said the new savings plan is necessary in order to boost the airline's competitiveness and for its future expansion.

"We know that competition on Scandinavian air routes will get tougher and therefore we have to be well prepared for the future," said Lindegaard.

Lindegaard said that SAS must be able to offer more and cheaper air travel in the Scandinavian market.

SAS has been under growing pressure on its own turf from such budget airlines as Ryanair and Easyjet. dpa fp sc

Load-Date: April 10, 2003



Denmark accuses Ryanair of marketing law violations

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

March 7, 2003, Friday 08:47 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 166 words

Dateline: Copenhagen

Body

Police in the city of Aarhus, western Denmark, have accused the Irish low-fare airline Ryanair of violating Danish marketing laws, the national newspaper Jyllands-Posten said Friday.

Ryanair's practice of advertising its budget rate ticket without adding local taxes and fees, so that the prices seem lower than they really are, is illegal, according to the police.

The case against Ryanair was reported to the police by the Danish National Consumer Agency following complaints by rival airlines, the newspaper said.

Ryanair also has been criticised for collecting an airport tax of 66 kroner (9.50 dollars) per passenger, and then pocketing 33 kroner on each ticket, because the airline actually pays only 33 kroner to Aarhus airport thanks to a rebate arrangement.

The agency claims Ryanair's marketing practices mislead the consumers. Until recently, Ryanair advertised ticket prices on its Internet sales site that did not include the airport taxes and fees. dpa fp sc

Load-Date: March 7, 2003



Ryanair to cut 12 Buzz routes, 400 jobs on takeover from KLM

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 26, 2003, Wednesday 13:09 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 306 words

Dateline: London

Body

Irish-owned low-cost carrier Ryanair said Wednesday it was cutting 12 routes and 400 jobs from Buzz, KLM's budget airline which Ryanair takes over on April 1.

Ryanair said it would ground all Buzz flights for the month of April. A final decision would follow soon "on whether to restart flying on May 1, or close Buzz altogether", it said.

There was immediate protest from trade unions in Britain, from where Buzz operates most of its flights.

Ryanair announced at the end of January it was buying Buzz from the Dutch company for 15 million pounds (24 million dollars) and chief executive Michael O'Leary predicted he could turn it around from its current loss-making position within a year.

O'Leary pointed to Buzz's fleet of BAE aircraft and its use of major hubs as the main causes of the losses. Ryanair operates exclusively Boeing 737s and uses minor airports. It will retain two BAE 146 aircraft.

Ryanair said Wednesday that Buzz was currently losing more than one million euros (690,000 pounds) a week.

While 12 Buzz routes were cut, another 12 would see increased flight frequencies and reduced fares, it said.

Among the flights cut are those from London Stansted to Paris Charles de Gaulle, Amsterdam, Marseilles, Toulon, Tours, Bergerac, Caen, Dijon, Geneva, Chambéry, Brest and Almeira.

Ryanair said Buzz was "heavily overstaffed" carrying fewer than 3,000 passengers per employee compared to Ryanair's figure of almost 10,000.

Ground staff trade unionist Paul Kenny said there was "absolute outrage" at the announcement. Pilots union Balpa responded it was "angered" and that it was taking legal advice.

The Transport and General Workers Union said it was seeking an urgent meeting with Ryanair, adding that the plans fell short of legal requirements on consultation. dpa rpm jm

Ryanair to cut 12 Buzz routes, 400 jobs on takeover from KLM

Load-Date: February 26, 2003

End of Document



British Airways in the black as slow turnaround proceeds

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

February 10, 2003, Monday 09:33 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 220 words

Dateline: London

Body

British Airways announced Monday it had shown a profit in its third quarter to the end of December but warned that this year would be more difficult than last.

Presenting interim results, the group said pre-tax profits for the quarter came in at 25 million pounds (40 million dollar), against losses of 160 million for the same quarter in 2001.

Turnover edged up one per cent to 1.86 billion pounds.

BA warned it expected the business environment in 2003 to be "tougher" than last year and is still not anticipating any growth in revenues.

"Forecasting revenue against the backdrop of the threat of war, increasing competitive pressure and an uncertain economic outlook is difficult, but at this stage we anticipate no revenue growth over the next 12 months," it said.

BA, like other major carriers, was badly hit by the September 11 attacks in 2001. It has also come under pressure in its domestic and European markets from low-cost carriers Ryanair and Easyjet.

In May 2002 it reported its worst set of results since privatisation 15 years ago, with full-year losses of 200 million pounds.

The subsequent restructuring programme has seen more than 9,200 staff cut since August 2001. A further 10,000 cuts are projected by the end of March this year and 13,000 by March 2004. dpa rpm ds

Load-Date: February 10, 2003



ROUNDUP: Irish carrier Ryanair to buy Buzz from KLM, orders Boeings

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 31, 2003, Friday 13:51 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 329 words

Dateline: London

Body

Low-cost Irish airline Ryanair announced Friday it was buying rival Buzz, owned by Dutch national carrier KLM, and that it was ordering 22 new Boeing 737 aircraft as well as taking options on a further 78.

The company said it was paying 15 million pounds (25 million dollars) for Buzz and six billion dollars for the 100 aircraft.

Buzz operates 21 routes from London's Stansted airport - Ryanair's hub in the Britain - to points in Germany, Holland, France and Spain, as well as two French domestic routes.

Ryanair said it planned to close a number of Buzz's high-cost, unprofitable routes. The remaining routes would be operated at an increased frequency, with lower fares and costs. It aims to return Buzz's six BAe-146 planes to KLM.

The order for new Boeings will enable Ryanair to carry more than 50 million passengers a year and generate employment for 3,000 people, including 800 pilots, 2,000 cabin crew and 200 engineering and operational staff, according to the airline.

It follows an order placed a year ago for 150 Boeing 737s and means the group will have a total fleet of 250 Boeing 737-800s in eight years.

The purchase of Buzz, which will go through on April 1, subject to regulatory approval, marks further consolidation in Britain's booming low-cost airline industry. Last year Easyjet bought Go, originally set up by British Airways, for 374 million pounds.

Ryanair's chief executive Michael O'Leary said the acquisition of Buzz was "opportunistic", as the airline was seen as a bargain. The deal runs counter to Ryanair's past policy of growing organically.

"The cost of the Buzz acquisition is nominal at a net cash cost of under five million euros, which will be a bargain if we can - as we expect - turn it around in one year," O'Leary said.

He predicted Buzz's two structural cost problems of an inappropriately expensive fleet and expensive congested airports would be resolved within 12 months. dpa rpm sc

ROUNDUP: Irish carrier Ryanair to buy Buzz from KLM , orders Boeings

Load-Date: January 31, 2003

End of Document



Low-cost Irish carrier Ryanair to buy Buzz from Dutch KLM

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 31, 2003, Friday 07:52 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 98 words

Dateline: London

Body

Low-cost Irish airline Ryanair announced Friday it would buy rival Buzz, owned by Dutch national carrier KLM, for 15 million pounds (25 million dollars).

Buzz operates 21 routes from London Stansted -- Ryanair's hub in the United Kingdom -- to points in Germany, Holland, France and Spain, as well as two French domestic routes.

Ryanair said the deal would further expansion at Stansted and that it planned to close a number of Buzz's high-cost, unprofitable routes. The remaining routes would be operated at an increased frequency, with lower fares and costs. dpa rpm jm

Load-Date: January 31, 2003

End of Document



Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair expands routes from London

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 29, 2003, Wednesday 11:16 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 165 words

Dateline: London

Body

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair announced Wednesday it is adding five new European destinations to its flights from Stansted airport north of London.

From the end of April, the no-frills airline will add Reims and Pau in France, Maastricht in Holland, Haugesund in Norway and Duesseldorf in Germany, which will be served from Niederrhein airport.

One-way fares to Maastricht and Duesseldorf will start at 49.99 pounds (82 dollars), while the one-way fares on the other three new routes will start at 59.99 pounds.

From April 30, the airline will serve 49 European destinations from Stansted, where it started operations in 1989.

On Tuesday, Ryanair said it had chosen Stockholm's Skavsta airport as its ninth European base and from April 4, would operate more than 30 flights a day from Stockholm to Glasgow, Hamburg, Paris, Oslo, Aarhus in Denmark and Tampere in Finland in addition to the services it already operates from Sweden to London and Frankfurt. dpa
rpm jm

Load-Date: June 6, 2003



Ireland's Ryanair opening Swedish hub, challenging SAS

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 28, 2003, Tuesday 13:07 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 265 words

Dateline: Stockholm

Body

The low fares carrier Ryanair announced on Tuesday that it will open a new European base at Stockholm's Skavsta airport, challenging SAS on its own turf in Scandinavia.

Ryanair, the leading European budget airline, said it planned to operate up to four aircraft from Skavsta with more than 30 flights daily to Aarhus, west Denmark, Glasgow, Paris, Torp near Oslo and Tampere in Finland.

The new services, using Boeing 737-800 aircraft, are set to open on 4 April.

"Thanks to Ryanair, and Stockholm Skavsta Airport, the SAS high fares monopoly in the Scandinavian market is at an end," said Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary in Stockholm.

O'Leary said Ryanair would break the Scandinavian "monopoly" of SAS - jointly owned by the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish states - by offering consumers savings between 84 and 95 per cent savings compared to SAS fares.

Destinations included in the budget Ryanair flights are London- Stansted, Frankfurt, Aarhus, Oslo, Tampere, Glasgow, Hamburg and Paris.

Single tickets on the Skavsta-Aarhus route will sell for 399 Swedish krona (47 dollars) with Ryanair compared with 2,671 krona with SAS.

Ryanair's move in the Scandinavian market is bound to make it even more difficult for the financially strapped SAS to compete in the region.

"We will break SAS' monopoly on the Danish market, finally giving Danes a chance to fly low fare to Stockholm. A privilege that SAS has denied its passengers for too long," said Ryanair's communications chief John Rowley, speaking to reporters at Aarhus airport. dpa fp mga jm

Load-Date: January 28, 2003

Ireland 's Ryanair opening Swedish hub, challenging SAS

End of Document



Low-cost carrier Easyjet seals Airbus deal

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

January 2, 2003, Thursday 10:35 Central European Time

Copyright 2003 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Finance

Length: 109 words

Dateline: London

Body

British low-cost carrier Easyjet Thursday sealed a deal, first announced in October, to buy 120 new Airbus A319 aircraft over the next five years.

Easyjet, based at Luton north of London, will take two of the aircraft every month until completion.

To date, Easyjet has used Boeing 737s, and there was intense speculation at the time of the deal that substantial discounts had been agreed in order to secure the switch.

Easyjet's main competitor, the Irish Ryanair, ordered 100 Boeing 737s in January last year and took an option on a further 50. Unconfirmed reports at the time also referred to substantial discounts. dpa rpm ms

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