



DOT TO LAUNCH FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS TO BILLUND IN DENMARK

Baltic News Service

April 21, 2006 Friday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 100 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Apr 21

Body

Danu Oro Transportas (DOT), an airline based in Lithuania, will launch flights between Kaunas and Billund, in Denmark, from May 11.

DOT said it would operate four weekly flights on the new route, using a Saab plane.

The airline will also increase the number of flights on its route from the Lithuanian seaside resort of Palanga to Billund.

With the arrival of Ryanair and Hungary's low-fare airline Wizz Air, passenger traffic at Kaunas Airport reached around 80,000 last year, a fourfold rise from 2004, and is expected to rise to some 300,000 this year.

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681518, verslas@bns.lt

Load-Date: April 21, 2006



ADDCAR RENTAL TO OPEN OFFICE IN KAUNAS AIRPORT

Baltic News Service

April 13, 2006 Thursday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 118 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Apr 13

Body

Addcar Rental, a low-cost car rental company that offers services in all three Baltic capitals, said it is opening an office in Kaunas Airport, in which two budget airlines operate, on May 1.

"Kaunas Airport has been rapidly expanding, taking in a growing number of planes operated by Ryanair and Wizz Air. Danish Air Transport may join them in the near future," Mangirdas Sapranasauskas, director of Addcar Rental's Lithuanian operations, said in a statement.

"The growing air traffic offers good prospects for the car rental business in Kaunas. Therefore, we decided to establish an office here," he added.

The car rental firm has units in Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn.

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Load-Date: April 13, 2006



RYANAIR TO LAUNCH FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS TO FRANKFURT IN OCT

Baltic News Service

April 12, 2006 Wednesday 3:06 PM EET

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Length: 230 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Apr 12

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair will launch a new route from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to Frankfurt-Hahn Airport, in Germany, in October.

The new service will start on Oct. 25 and will operate four times a week, Kaunas Airport said.

"We expect to carry over 55,000 passengers on the new route in the first year of operation and to carry in excess of 300,000 passengers on all five routes annually," Lotta Lindquist-Brosjo, Ryanair's director for the Baltic and Nordic region, said in a statement.

The Irish budget airline said it was also starting new routes from its Frankfurt Hahn base to Fez and Marrakesh in Morocco, Granada and Murcia in Spain, Trieste and Verona in Italy, and Krakow and Wroclaw in Poland.

It expects that the new routes will bring an additional million passengers per year.

The new route will take the number of routes Ryanair operates from Kaunas to five. It now offers flights to London and Stockholm and is starting a new route to Dublin on Apr. 29.

The airline has carried over 60,000 passengers to and from Lithuania since the launch of its first route from Kaunas seven months ago.

With the arrival of Ryanair and Hungary's low-fare airline Wizz Air, passenger traffic at Kaunas Airport reached around 80,000 last year, a fourfold rise from 2004, and is expected to rise to some 300,000 this year.

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Load-Date: April 12, 2006

RYANAIR TO LAUNCH FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS TO FRANKFURT IN OCT

End of Document



RYANAIR TO START FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS TO LIVERPOOL IN OCT

Baltic News Service

April 5, 2006 Wednesday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 139 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Apr 05

Body

Irish budget airline Ryanair has said it is starting a new route from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to Liverpool, in northern England, in October.

Kaunas Airport said the new service would begin on Oct. 3.

"We expect to carry 45,000 passengers on the new route to Liverpool starting Oct. 3," Wilhelm Hamilton, a Ryanair representative, said at a news conference in Kaunas on Wednesday.

The new service will take the number of routes Ryanair operates from Kaunas to four. It now offers flights to London and Stockholm and is starting a new route to Dublin on Apr. 29.

With the arrival of Ryanair and Hungary's low-fare airline Wizz Air, passenger traffic at Kaunas Airport reached around 80,000 last year, a fourfold rise from 2004, and is expected to rise to some 300,000 this year.

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Load-Date: April 5, 2006



RYANAIR MAY OFFER FLIGHT FROM KAUNAS TO FRANKFURT

Baltic News Service

April 4, 2006 Tuesday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 159 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Apr 04

Body

Irish budget carrier Ryanair, which opened routes from Kaunas Airport last year, may offer flights from Kaunas to the Frankfurt-Hahn Airport in Germany.

That option was being considered, said Gediminas Miskinis, the secretary of state at the Ministry of Economy.

"This is our wish and their possibilities. Ryanair is the undoubted leader at that airport, it has made investments there. Moreover, these could be combined flights, including the carriage of passengers by bus from the Kaunas Airport to Birstonas, Druskininkai or other towns, or from Hahn Airport to Brussels," Miskinis added.

He discussed the outlook for a direct route between Kaunas and Hahn Airports during his visit to Germany last week.

At present Ryanair offers flights from Kaunas to London and Stockholm. Late in April, it will open a regular route to Dublin. The company carried over 56,000 passengers in six months of business in Kaunas.

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Load-Date: April 4, 2006



RYANAIR SATISFIED WITH BUSINESS IN KAUNAS - DAILY

Baltic News Service

March 28, 2006 Tuesday 3:06 PM EET

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Length: 132 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Mar 28

Body

Irish no-frill carrier Ryanair has carried 56,000 passengers on its Kaunas-London route in six months of operations in Lithuania, the Lietuvos Rytas daily reports.

"We are satisfied with the performance of this route," said Lotta Lindquist-Brosjo, Ryanair's Nordic and Baltic Sales and Marketing Manager.

The company expected to carry 100,000 passengers within a year. The number of travellers should increase in summer, thus the actual number of passengers will far exceed the projections.

The load factor at Boeing 737-800 planes operating on the route stood at 83 percent, same as the average load factor for the company.

Ryanair would carry over 200,000 passengers on its route to Kaunas in the following business year, Lindquist-Brosjo projected.

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Load-Date: March 28, 2006



RYANAIR SEES PASSENGER FLOW FROM KAUNAS ABOVE 200,000 PER YEAR

Baltic News Service

March 23, 2006 Thursday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 138 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Mar 23

Body

Irish budget carrier Ryanair expects to carry over 200,000 passengers on its three routes from Kaunas in the financial year from Mar. 31.

The company carried over 56,000 passengers during six months of operations in the second largest Lithuania's city, Lotta Lindquist-Brosjo, Ryanair Nordic and Baltic Sales and Marketing Manager, said at Thursday's news conference.

Over 60 percent of passengers were carried on flights to Lithuania.

Late in March, the carrier aims to open a route from Kaunas to Stockholm. Moreover, the company will add a route to Dublin at the end of April.

Ryanair, the largest European no-frill carrier, offers 288 routes in 21 European countries.

The company projects its net earnings to reach 295 million euros in the financial year to Mar. 31.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: March 23, 2006



LITHUANIA'S KAUNAS AIRPORT LOOKS TO ATTRACT MORE AIRLINES

Baltic News Service

February 24, 2006 Friday 11:56 PM EET

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Length: 172 words

Dateline: VILNIUS Feb 24

Body

With Ireland's Ryanair and Hungary's Wizz Air planning new routes from Lithuania's second-biggest city, Kaunas Airport expects a fourfold increase in passenger numbers to 300,000 this year and looks to attract more, smaller air carriers in the future.

Kaunas Airport director Kestutis Cucenas said that the airport was in talks with small Swedish and Norwegian budget airlines but did not name them.

With the arrival of Ryanair and Wizz Air, passenger traffic at Kaunas Airport reached around 80,000 last year, a fourfold rise from 2004.

"We anticipate growth in passenger numbers this year because the Irish and Hungarian low-cost airlines are adding new destinations to their flight schedules," Cucenas said.

Kaunas Airport plans to build a 4,000-square-meter terminal, estimated to cost 10-12 million litas (EUR 2.9-3.5 mln), to comply with the Schengen requirements and remain open to travelers from non-Schengen countries after the country joins the free movement area.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: February 24, 2006



PASSENGER FLOW AT LITHUANIA'S AIRPORTS SURGES 30.7 PCT IN 2005

Baltic News Service

January 23, 2006

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Length: 260 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jan 23

Body

Passenger flow at Lithuania's airports surged 30.7 percent last year, to reach 1.4 million passengers, the country's Statistics Department has reported.

Incoming passenger traffic, at 714,900 passengers, soared by 30.5 percent versus 2004, while the outgoing traffic expanded by 30.9 percent, to reach 724,200 passengers.

In December alone, the passenger flow at the country's airports totalled 106,500 passengers, a rise of 28.3 percent versus December 2004. Incoming traffic, at 58,600 passengers, expanded by 30.8 percent, year-on-year, while the outgoing flow, at 47,900, increased by 25.5 percent.

Passengers on flights to and from UK, at 219,500, comprised 15.3 percent of total passenger traffic last year. Germany ranked the second, with 184,600 passengers or 12.8 percent of the total, and was followed by Denmark (177,500 passengers, 12.3 percent of the total flow) and Ireland (94,700 passengers, 6.6 percent).

The number of passengers on incoming and outgoing regular flights soared by 34.8 percent, year-on-year, to 1.2 million passengers or 86 percent of total passenger flow.

Cargo and post handling at the airports rose by 5.3 percent, year-on-year, to reach 9,800 tons last year.

Ireland's no-frill carrier Ryanair launched flights from Kaunas Airport to London last year, while Hungary's budget carrier Wizz Air opened a route from Kaunas to Warsaw. In 2006 Wizz Air intends to open the routes from the second largest Lithuania's city to Stockholm, Dublin and Malme-Copenhagen.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681521, verslas@bns.lt

PASSENGER FLOW AT LITHUANIA 'S AIRPORTS SURGES 30.7 PCT IN 2005

Load-Date: January 23, 2006

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RYANAIR UNVEILS NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO DUBLIN

Baltic News Service

December 21, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 110 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Dec 21

Body

Ryanair, the Irish-based budget airline, said it will launch a new route from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to Dublin starting Apr. 28 next year.

This will be the airline's third route from Kaunas.

"The route will be operated three times a week with brand new 189-seat Boeing 737-800 aircraft," Karl Hogstadius, Ryanair's deputy manager for the Nordic and Baltic regions, said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Ryanair announced a new route between Kaunas and Stockholm starting Mar. 29. The airline launched its first route in Lithuania, from Kaunas Airport to London Stansted, on Sept. 22 this year.

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681521, verslas@bns.lt

Load-Date: December 27, 2005



RYANAIR UNVEILS NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO DUBLIN

Baltic News Service

December 21, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 110 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Dec 21

Body

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Earlier this month, Ryanair announced a new route between Kaunas and Stockholm starting Mar. 29. The airline launched its first route in Lithuania, from Kaunas Airport to London Stansted, on Sept. 22 this year.

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681521, verslas@bns.lt

Load-Date: December 21, 2005



RYANAIR ANNOUNCES NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO STOCKHOLM

Baltic News Service

December 7, 2005

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Length: 239 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Dec 07

Body

Ryanair, the Irish-based budget airline, is set to begin flights from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to the Swedish capital of Stockholm in February.

Karl Hogstadius, Ryanair deputy manager for the Nordic and Baltic regions, announced the new route at a news conference in Kaunas on Wednesday.

He said the new route to Skavsta Airport, which is an hour's drive from Stockholm, would start on Feb. 22 next year and would operate four times a week.

Ryanair launched its first route in Lithuania, from Kaunas Airport to London Stansted, in late September.

Hogstadius said the Kaunas-London route was profitable for the airline, with the load factor at 90 percent.

Ryanair expects that the number of passengers on both routes will reach up to 160,000 by the end of next year.

It has carried more than 30 million passengers on 278 routes this year in total.

Hungary's budget airline Wizz Air started flights from Kaunas to Warsaw on Dec. 1. It also offers connections, via the Polish capital, to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malmo-Copenhagen, London and Stockholm.

Kaunas Airport operates a 3.25-kilometer-long runway and may service any type of aircraft. Previously, it focused mainly on cargo.

The airport has a capacity of 500,000 passengers a year. With the arrival of the low-cost airlines, passenger numbers at the airport are expected to rise to around 300,000 next year.

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RYANAIR ANNOUNCES NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO STOCKHOLM

Load-Date: December 7, 2005

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RYANAIR ANNOUNCES NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO STOCKHOLM

Baltic News Service

December 7, 2005

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Length: 239 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Dec 07

Body

Ryanair, the Irish-based budget airline, is set to begin flights from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to the Swedish capital of Stockholm in February.

Karl Hogstadius, Ryanair deputy manager for the Nordic and Baltic regions, announced the new route at a news conference in Kaunas on Wednesday.

He said the new route to Skavsta Airport, which is an hour's drive from Stockholm, would start on Feb. 22 next year and would operate four times a week.

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Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681518, verslas@bns.lt

RYANAIR ANNOUNCES NEW ROUTE FROM KAUNAS TO STOCKHOLM

Load-Date: December 14, 2005

End of Document



WIZZ AIR BUDGET AIRLINE STARTS FLIGHTS FROM LITHUANIA'S KAUNAS

Baltic News Service

December 1, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 213 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Dec 01

Body

Hungary's budget airline Wizz Air is launching flights from Kaunas, Lithuania's second-biggest city, on Friday, expecting to achieve an 80 percent load factor by next spring.

Wizz Air is the second low-cost air carrier to operate flights from Kaunas Airport. Ryanair, the Irish-based budget airline, opened a route to the airport in September.

Natasha Kazmer, Wizz Air's public relations director, said at a news conference on Thursday that the company would operate flights from Kaunas to Warsaw and offer connections, via the Polish capital, to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malmo-Copenhagen, London and Stockholm.

Depending on demand, Wizz Air will also consider starting direct flights from Kaunas to Britain, Germany and Ireland.

Kazmer said the average ticket price on the routes offered by Wizz Air was 50 euros.

The airline's Airbus A320 aircraft will fly from Kaunas to Warsaw four times a week.

Wizz Air expects passenger numbers on its new route to reach around 50,000 next year. It has carried 2 million passengers this year in total.

Kaunas Airport has a capacity of 500,000 passengers a year. With the arrival of the low-cost airlines, passenger numbers at the airport are expected to rise to around 300,000 next year.

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Load-Date: December 1, 2005

WIZZ AIR BUDGET AIRLINE STARTS FLIGHTS FROM LITHUANIA 'S KAUNAS

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DEMAND IN RYANAIR FLIGHTS IN KAUNAS ABOVE ALL FORECASTS

Baltic News Service

November 17, 2005

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Length: 277 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 17

Body

The interest in flights offered by Irish no-frill carrier Ryanair from Kaunas, the second largest Lithuania's city, has exceeded the most optimistic forecasts made at the company's entry into Lithuania's market.

"The load factor at Ryanair flights averages at 90 percent.

The representatives of the Irish company have told us that the flights to from Kaunas and back would justify themselves with the occupancy rate at approximately 75 percent, which is largely what we had expected," said Kestutis Cucenas, CEO of Kaunas Airport.

The structure of passengers, however, was different from Latvia, which Ryanair entered before Lithuania, he noted.

"While assessing the experience of Riga we projected that the flights to Kaunas would be of interest to the Brits who comprise the major share of Ryanair passengers to Riga. However, the Lithuanians seem to be interested in the flights the most" Cucenas said.

Ryanair opened flights from and to Kaunas late in September with a single route to London. In future the company may also add routes to Frankfurt, Dublin and Glasgow.

Meanwhile, Hungary's no-friller Wizz Air will launch flights from Kaunas to Warsaw, and, from the latter city, to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malme-Copenhagen, London and Stockholm from Dec. 1.

Moreover, Wizz Air is mulling a possibility to offer direct flights to Germany and Ireland from Kaunas.

Last year the Kaunas Airport posted the losses of approximately 1 million litas (EUR 0.29 mln).

The airport, which has the design capacities of 500,000 passengers per year, expects to service some 300,000 passengers in 2006.

DEMAND IN RYANAIR FLIGHTS IN KAUNAS ABOVE ALL FORECASTS

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: November 17, 2005

End of Document



UK IS NO. 1 DESTINATION FOR LITHUANIAN AIR PASSENGERS

Baltic News Service

November 15, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 154 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 15

Body

Lithuania has recorded strong growth in air passenger traffic this year, with the United Kingdom being the number one destination for air travel.

The United Kingdom accounted for 13.9 percent of all passengers flying from and to Lithuanian airports during the first nine months of this year, the Transport Ministry said.

Germany was the second most popular destination, accounting for 13.4 percent of all passenger traffic, followed by Denmark with 11.8 percent and Ireland with 6.6 percent.

A total of 1.096 million passengers went through the international airports of Vilnius, Kaunas, Palanga and Siauliai in January-September, up 32 percent from the same period a year ago.

The airports in Vilnius and Palanga ended the nine-month period with a profit, while Kaunas Airport, from which the Irish budget carrier Ryanair began flights to London in September, posted losses.

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Load-Date: November 15, 2005



KAUNAS AIRPORT SEES PASSENGER FLOW SURGE IN 2006 - DAILY

Baltic News Service

November 11, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 188 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 11

Body

The airport of Kaunas, the second largest Lithuania's city, expects that Irish no-frill carrier Ryanair, which aims to offer four routes from Kaunas in 2006, will revive passenger traffic at the airport, with passenger numbers expected to hit record 300,000 coming year, the Lietuvos Rytas daily has reported.

In the first nine months of 2005 the airport serviced 39,000 passengers, while the flow was meagre 18,000 passengers in the January-to-September period of 2004.

The airport currently services 320 passengers of Ryanair per day on average.

Kestutis Cucenas, the airport CEO, has confirmed to the daily that the Irish budget carrier aims to add flights to Spain, Germany and Dublin next year, in addition to its current route to London, which was opened in September.

Further outlook for the Kaunas airport will be clarified in approximately a year following the completion of the feasibility study into the expansion of Lithuania's airports. The study will assess the options for the upgrade of the airports in Kaunas and Vilnius, and the project of new airport construction.

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Load-Date: November 15, 2005



KAUNAS AIRPORT SEES PASSENGER FLOW SURGE IN 2006 - DAILY

Baltic News Service

November 11, 2005

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Length: 188 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 11

Body

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Load-Date: November 11, 2005



RYANAIR CANCELS 3 FLIGHTS TO LITHUANIA'S KAUNAS - DAILY

Baltic News Service

October 25, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 138 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Oct 25

Body

Ireland's budget airline Ryanair, which opened a route to Lithuania in September, has canceled three flights between Kaunas and London, the daily Kauno Diena reported.

It is believed that Ryanair's flights, scheduled for last Saturday, this Friday and Sunday, were cancelled because of aircraft delivery delays caused by a strike at Boeing last month.

The director of Kaunas Airport, Kestutis Cucenas, said he did not know the reason for the cancellation of flights, but it was definitely not a lack of passengers.

"Passenger numbers exceed expectation. About 90 percent of seats are filled on this route, which is a very high rate," he said.

Ryanair warned in September that it would cancel approximately 200 flights in October due to delays in the delivery of seven aircraft.

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Load-Date: October 25, 2005



MAJOR BUSINESS EVENTS IN LITHUANIA PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK

Baltic News Service

September 16, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 254 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Sep 16

Body

The following are major business events in Lithuania scheduled for the coming week:

Monday, Sept. 19

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Tuesday, Sept. 20

1. The Lithuanian Industrialists' Confederation is to hold a consultative meeting to discuss the impact of surging fuel prices on the economy.

Economy Minister Zigmantas Balcytis and officials from Mazeikiu Nafta (Mazeikiai Oil) are expected to participate.

Wednesday, Sept. 21

1. The Cabinet is expected to approve a draft law that would pave the way for acquisition of Mazeikiu Nafta's shares from Yukos.

Thursday, Sept. 22

1. Ireland's low-fares carrier Ryanair is to launch flights to Kaunas.

2. The Competition Council is to hold its regular meeting.

3. The Bank of Lithuania's board is to hold a sitting.

4. The Securities Commission is to hold a meeting.

MAJOR BUSINESS EVENTS IN LITHUANIA PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK

5. A three-day international exhibition of medical and laboratory equipment, pharmaceuticals, dentistry and optics, Baltmedica, kicks off at the Litexpo Exhibition Center in Vilnius.

Friday, Sept. 23

1. Stumbras, the alcoholic beverage company, is to hold an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to vote on a reorganization plan.

2. Siauliu Bankas is to hold a shareholder meeting to vote on a new 10-million-litas (EUR 2.9 mln) share issue.

3. The State Gaming Supervisory Commission is to hold a meeting.

4. A tender offer for shares in the garment producer Dainava expires.

5. The Bank of Lithuania starts paying interest on required reserves held by commercial banks.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681516, verslas@bns.lt

Load-Date: September 19, 2005

End of Document

IRISH NO-FRILL CARRIER RYANAIR SECURES 7,000 BOOKINGS FOR FIRST MONTH OF FLIGHTS TO
AND FROM LITHUANIA



**IRISH NO-FRILL CARRIER RYANAIR SECURES 7,000 BOOKINGS FOR FIRST
MONTH OF FLIGHTS TO AND FROM LITHUANIA**

Baltic News Service

September 2, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 228 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Sept 02

Body

Irish budget carrier Ryanair, which is due to launch flights from the Lithuanian airport in Kaunas on Sept. 22, has secured 7,000 bookings for the first month of its flights to London.

"We are very pleased with the development of the route.

The Lithuanians seems very eager to visit London and the British seems curiously interested about Kaunas and Lithuania. For the first month of flying we have already had more than 7 000 bookings on the route", Karl Hogstadius, Ryanair deputy manager for Nordic and Baltic regions, has said in a press release.

The carrier was pleased with great interest in low-fare flights in Lithuania, he added. The route will have one daily departure from Kaunas and will be operated with brand new Boeing 737-800 aircrafts.

In future Ryanair may offer flights from Kaunas to Frankfurt, Dublin and Glasgo, with final decisions over this routes still pending.

On Dec. 1 Hungary's no-frill carrier Wizz Air will offer flights from Kaunas to Warsaw, as well as routes to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malme-Copenhagen, London and Stockholm, all via Warsaw.

Previously the Kaunas airport mostly focused on cargo carriers.

The airport, which operates a 3.25 kilometer long runway and may service any type of aircraft, posted a loss of about 1 million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) for 2004.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Vilnius newsroom, +370 5 2681521, verslas@bns.lt

IRISH NO-FRILL CARRIER RYANAIR SECURES 7,000 BOOKINGS FOR FIRST MONTH OF FLIGHTS TO
AND FROM LITHUANIA

Load-Date: September 2, 2005

End of Document



NO-FRILLER WIZZ AIR TO KICK OFF CHEAP FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS IN 2005

Baltic News Service

July 13, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 252 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jul 13

Body

Wizz Air, the largest budget carrier in Central and Eastern Europe, has announced its intentions to kick off flights from Kaunas to Warsaw from Dec. 1.

No-friller will also offer flights to Paris, Liverpool, Dortmund, Malme-Copenhagen, London and Stockholm via Warsaw.

Wizz Air is the second budget carrier to launch cheap flights from Kaunas as Irish Ryanair will kick off flights from the second largest Lithuania's city to London on Sept. 22.

"The company will offer Lithuania's and Poland's people convenient travel at reasonable prices. This step proves our determination to expand the geography of our flights in the eastern direction," said Jozsef Varadi, Wizz Air CEO.

Kestutis Cucenas, acting CEO of Kaunas Airport, has said that the decision of Wizz Air to offer flights from Kaunas was a yet another step towards the transformation of the airport into a no-frill hub in Lithuania.

Wizz Air, which launched its business in May 2004, has already serviced 1.5 million passengers and has taken the lead on the fast-growing low-cost air travel market in Poland and Hungary, the company has said.

The carrier will offer six weekly flights from Kaunas to Warsaw. One-way tickets, excluding taxes and feex, will cost from 9.99 euros and 19.99 euros. Reservations are available at the company's Website at www.wizzair.com.

Wizz Air operates a fleet of new Airbus A320s. This summer the company operates 32 routes between 17 European air hubs.

NO-FRILLER WIZZ AIR TO KICK OFF CHEAP FLIGHTS FROM KAUNAS IN 2005

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: July 13, 2005

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LITHUANIA: KAUNAS SIGNS ADVERTISING DEAL WITH IRELAND'S RYANAIR

Baltic News Service

July 1, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 224 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jul 01

Body

The city of Kaunas has signed a contract with Airport Marketing Services, the administrator of Ryanair's Internet site, on advertising of the Irish budget airline's first service between Kaunas and London, scheduled to start in the autumn.

The municipality of Kaunas said that it will share the advertising costs, amounting to 105,000 euros per year, with other institutions that took part in the negotiations with Ryanair -- the Lithuanian Transport Ministry, the municipality of Vilnius and the State Tourism Department.

Ryanair's Internet site attracts an average of 200 million visitors monthly, according to the press release.

The Irish low cost airline plans to begin daily flights from Kaunas Airport to London's Stansted Airport on Sept. 22.

It may also offer flights from Kaunas to Frankfurt, Dublin and Glasgow in the future, but decisions on these routes have not been taken yet.

Kaunas Airport, which has a 3.25-kilometer-long runway that can accommodate any type of passenger aircraft, now mainly serves cargo flights and operates at a loss. Expanding this airport would be cheaper than building a new one.

Vilnius Airport, which accounted for 90.6 percent of all passenger traffic at Lithuanian airports and 70 percent of all flights last year, has limited possibilities for expansion.

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LITHUANIA : KAUNAS SIGNS ADVERTISING DEAL WITH IRELAND 'S RYANAIR

Load-Date: July 6, 2005

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IRISH BUDGET CARRIER RYANAIR TO OPEN ROUTE KAUNAS-LONDON IN SEPT

Baltic News Service

June 21, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 221 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jun 21

Body

Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair will kick off business in Lithuania in September with the opening of a route to London.

The costs of Ryanair flights to the local authority of Kaunas, the second-largest Lithuania's city, will exceed 350,000 litas (EUR 101,449) per year.

Flights from Kaunas to London would depart on a daily basis starting from Sept. 22, Karl Hogstadius, deputy of Ryanair executive for the Nordic and Baltic region, said at Tuesday's news conference.

Passengers would be flown to London Standsted airport located at a distance of some 50 kilometers from the British capital, he added. The tickets would cost some 30-40 euros (LTL 103.6-138), airport fees inclusive.

Tickets to Ryanair flights will only be available over the Internet.

Ryanair expected to carry some 100,000 passengers on its new route per year, Hogstadius noted.

In future Ryanair may also offer flights from Kaunas to Frankfurt, Dublin and Glasgow, however, the decisions concerning those routes had not been made as yet, he added.

Arvydas Garbaravicius, the Kaunas mayor, said at the news conference that the local authority of Kaunas would pay the Irish company 105,000 euros (LTL 362,500) per year for the advertising of the route Kaunas-London on the Website of Ryanair.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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IRISH BUDGET CARRIER RYANAIR TO OPEN ROUTE KAUNAS-LONDON IN SEPT

Load-Date: June 22, 2005

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KAUNAS AIRPORT WRAPS UP TALKS WITH LOW COST CARRIER RYANAIR

Baltic News Service

June 20, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 83 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jun 20

Body

Kaunas Airport has finished talks with Irish budget carrier Ryanair.

"We have reached an in-principle agreement with Ryanair," Kestutis Cucenas, Kaunas Airport CEO, told BNS.

The Irish company would announce the launch of its flights from Lithuania at a news conference due on Tuesday, Cucenas added.

Previously media reported that the Irish budget carrier would offer flights from the airport based in Karmelava, the Kaunas region, from fall 2005.

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Load-Date: June 20, 2005



RYANAIR SLOW TO ENTER LITHUANIAN MARKET

Baltic News Service

May 13, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 269 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, May 13

Body

Ryanair, the Irish budget airline, promised on Friday to give a final answer on whether it intends to start flights to Kaunas Airport in Lithuania within a month, officials said.

If Ryanair's answer is positive, a service to Kaunas could be introduced in October.

"Ryanair promised to give us a definite answer as to whether they see possibilities for starting flights from Kaunas Airport in around a month's time, after the company's board has discussed this issue," Valdemaras Salauskas, the Transport Ministry secretary, told reporters after Friday's meeting with Ryanair's representatives.

The official said Ryanair is satisfied with all the technical conditions at the airport. He added, however, that the problem of "marketing money" remains to be solved.

"Information that there is a service to Lithuania and booking information would be made available on Ryanair's website. The company sees it as a marketing tool and wants the country to cover these costs," Salauskas said.

He did not say what amount of money the parties are negotiating for.

Reportedly, last year Ryanair asked Lithuania to pay up to a million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) per year for Internet tourism advertising.

There are currently no low-fare airlines operating in the country.

Earlier this year, the Transport Ministry invited eight European low-fare airlines to introduce flights to Kaunas. Air Berlin, German Wings and Belgium's Hapag Lloyds Express also responded to the ministry's letter, but only to inform it that they had no immediate plans to expand to Lithuania.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

RYANAIR SLOW TO ENTER LITHUANIAN MARKET

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Load-Date: May 13, 2005

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LITHUANIA EXPECTS RYANAIR TO START FLIGHTS TO KAUNAS IN FALL

Baltic News Service

May 11, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 290 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, May 11

Body

Lithuania intends to invite Ryanair to start low-cost flights in and out of Kaunas Airport this fall, the Transport Ministry said.

A delegation from the Irish budget airline, headed by Benny Berger, director of the new flights development department, is to arrive in Lithuania on Friday.

The Transport Ministry said in a statement that all institutions participating in the talks with Ryanair -- Kaunas Airport, the municipalities of Vilnius and Kaunas, the Kaunas county administration and the State Tourism Department -- agreed on a joint negotiating position on Wednesday.

The Lithuanian side is waiting for concrete proposals as to the start of flights from Ryanair and expects that the airline will introduce at least one daily service by the end of this year, according to the statement.

Valdemaras Sulauskas, the Transport Ministry secretary, said that the municipalities of Vilnius and Kaunas intend to help attract the low-fare carrier to Lithuania by developing the necessary infrastructure and organizing regular public transport services to the airport, which is located in Karmelava, not far from Kaunas.

There are currently no low-fare airlines operating in the country.

Last fall Ryanair expressed interest in starting flights in and out of the country in 2005. The airline planned to carry 200,000 passengers a year.

Earlier this year, the Transport Ministry invited eight budget airlines to introduce flights to Kaunas, but Ryanair was the only to respond to this invitation.

Kaunas Airport posted a loss of almost 1 million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) last year, compared with a net profit of around 300,000 litas in 2003, according to information available to BNS.

LITHUANIA EXPECTS RYANAIR TO START FLIGHTS TO KAUNAS IN FALL

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: May 11, 2005

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RYANAIR CONFIRMS INTEREST IN STARTING SERVICE TO LITHUANIA

Baltic News Service

February 25, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 253 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Feb 25

Body

Ireland's Ryanair is the only among eight discount budget airlines to have responded to the Lithuanian Transport Ministry's invitation to begin services to the country so far.

Vidmantas Kairys, director of the Civil Aviation Department at the Transport Ministry, told BNS that Ryanair had offered to continue talks over the terms and conditions for a possible service to Lithuania.

Transport Minister Zigmantas Balcytis also sent letters to Britain's EasyJet and BMI-baby; Germany's Air Berlin, Virgin Express and GermanWings; Belgium's Hapag Lloyd Express, and Dutch FLYbe.

The minister said in his letters that the best place to begin operations in Lithuania would be the airport in Kaunas, the country's second-largest city, which has a 3.25-kilometer-long runway and can accommodate any type of passenger aircraft.

Currently, no low-fare air carriers operate in Lithuania.

Ryanair had earlier expressed its interest in operating flights in and out of Lithuania but its talks with local officials failed after it asked that Lithuania pay it up to a million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) per year for advertising the country's tourism institutions on its Internet site.

Passenger traffic at Lithuanian airports surged by 39.3 percent to 1.097 million and aircraft movements increased by 21.3 percent to 33,760 last year.

The international airport in the capital of Vilnius accounted for 90.6 percent of total passenger numbers and 70 percent of all flights.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

RYANAIR CONFIRMS INTEREST IN STARTING SERVICE TO LITHUANIA

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Load-Date: February 25, 2005

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LITHUANIA'S TRANSPORT MINISTER INVITES EIGHT NO-FRILL CARRIERS TO TRY OUT LOCAL MARKET

Baltic News Service

February 11, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 286 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Feb 11

Body

Zigmantas Balcytis, Lithuania's minister of transportation, has invited eight leading European budget carriers to try out Lithuania's air travel market.

Minister sent respective invitations to Ireland's Ryanair, British easyJet and BMI baby, Germany's Air Berlin, Virgin Express and German Wings, Belgium-registered Hapag Lloyd Express and Dutch FLY be.

In particular, the ministry urged no-frill carriers to assess the advantages of Kaunas Airport, which operated a 3.25-kilometer long runway and was adapted for aircraft of any type.

So far, budget carriers tended to omit Lithuania in their expansion schedules. Ryanair appeared the budget carrier only to be interested in the market, however, the company demanded that domestic authorities provided it with numerous advantages, which some high-ranking public officers dismissed as hidden subsidies.

Meanwhile, Balcytis highlighted the impressive growth of Lithuania's economy in his invitation letters, and added that a continuing rise in population income and membership in the European Union (EU) boosted the potential of the market considerably.

"Passenger flow handled by air carriers surged by almost 40 percent last year. We hope that the growth of that market in Lithuania will far exceed European average in the next several years to come. That is why I urge you to consider the inclusion of Lithuania into the future list of prospective new routes," minister said in the invitation letter.

Lithuania's airports serviced 1.097 million passengers in 2004, a rise of 39.3 percent from the year-earlier figure of 788,100. The number of flights handled by airports soared by 21.3 percent, year-on-year, to 33,760.

LITHUANIA'S TRANSPORT MINISTER INVITES EIGHT NO-FRILL CARRIERS TO TRY OUT LOCAL
MARKET

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Load-Date: February 11, 2005

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TRANSPORT MINISTRY STILL HOPING TO LURE NO-FRILL CARRIERS TO LITHUANIA

Baltic News Service

January 26, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 311 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jan 26

Body

Despite the wishes of Irish budget carrier Ryanair to get up to 1 million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) per year for flights to Lithuania, the national authorities still hope to lure this or another no-frill carrier to the country.

The Ministry of Transportation would shortly invite all major foreign budget carriers to consider business in Lithuania, Valdemaras Salauskas, ministry's secretary, said after Tuesday consultations at the ministry.

"We will point out that Lithuania may offer favorable business environment, a rather strong passenger flow and growing economy," Salauskas noted.

He admitted that Ryanair had been the sole no-frill carrier showing any interest in operations on Lithuania's market. The study by ASI Consulting Baltic had revealed that Kaunas Airport might be the most advantageous for low-cost flights.

"We are interested in low-cost flights to Germany, UK and Scandinavia", Salauskas said.

In late 2004 Ryanair submitted to Lithuania's authorities a marketing proposal stating that the company wished to get up to 1 million litas per year for flights to and from Lithuania alongside low airport rates and other favorable conditions. Some public officers dismissed such demands as subsidising of flights via huge payments for links to Lithuania on Ryanair's website.

Salauskas admitted that the authorities would have to earmark funds for proper arrangement of infrastructure required for no-frill carriers.

Last year Lithuania's airports serviced 1.097 million passengers, a rise of 39.3 percent from the year-earlier figure. The number of flights surged by 21.3 percent, year-on-year, to 33,760.

TRANSPORT MINISTRY STILL HOPING TO LURE NO-FRILL CARRIERS TO LITHUANIA

State-run carrier Lietuvos Avialinijos (Lithuanian Airlines, or LAL), which is getting ready for privatization, is the yet unchallenged leader of domestic commercial air travel market.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: January 26, 2005

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RYANAIR EAGER TO GET ALMOST EUR 0.3 MLN FOR FLIGHTS TO LITHUANIA

Baltic News Service

January 21, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 295 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jan 21

Body

Apart low airport rates and other favorable conditions, Irish budget carrier Ryanair is eager to get up to 1 million litas (EUR 0.29 mln) per year from Lithuania for flights to and from the country.

The Irish company put forward a proposal to effectively subsidise its flights via huge payments for links to Lithuania on Ryanair's website.

"I would say that it is pure subsidising, which is contrary to competition and distorts the market. This is not tolerated by the European Commission (EC), either, said Rima Jakyte, head of Information, Analysis and Control unit of Lithuania's State Tourism Department.

In mid-December Ryanair proposed to the State Tourism Department to pay 200,000 euros per month, or 8.287 million litas per year for a link to the department on Ryanair's website.

The department rejected the price, which equalled its annual budget.

Meanwhile, Ryanair offered to maintain a link to the department's website on its secondary web page for 17,600 euros per month, or 211,200 euros per year.

Proposals to the State Tourism Department were handed over by Benny Berger, Ryanair new route development director.

"Correspondence was broken before Christmas as they understood that we would not pay that price," Jakyte told BNS.

Lithuania has so far failed to attract any no-frill carrier. Ryanair has opted for Riga airport as its Baltic hub.

RYANAIR EAGER TO GET ALMOST EUR 0.3 MLN FOR FLIGHTS TO LITHUANIA

Last year Lithuania's airports serviced 1.097 million passengers, a rise of 39.3 percent from the year-earlier figure. The number of flights surged by 21.3 percent, year-on-year, to 33,760.

Vilnius Airport alone serviced 994,160 passengers, 38.1 percent more from 2003. The number of flights handled by the airport surged by 39 percent, to 23,660.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

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Load-Date: January 21, 2005

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BUDGET CARRIER RYANAIR NO LONGER EYEING LITHUANIA'S MARKET -- REPORT

Baltic News Service

January 20, 2005

Copyright 2005 Baltic News Service



Length: 202 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Jan 20

Body

Irish budget carrier Ryanair, well-settled at Riga airport, is no longer eyeing Lithuania's no-frill market, dominated by airBaltic, the Verslo Zinios business daily has reported on Thursday.

Managers of Kaunas airport, who held talks with Ryanair, failed to lure the carrier even with 50 percent discount tariffs.

Talks with Ryanair had been complicated, said Rimantas Skridaila, Kauno Aerouostas CEO.

"In the beginning Ryanair laid down additional conditions and voiced discontent with proposals. We made certain concessions and offered the terms of cooperation equal to Riga or even better, however, we discovered that they only wanted to maintain pressure on the market. In effect, Lithuania's market is too small for them," Skridaila noted.

Valdemaras Salauskas, secretary of the ministry of transportation, told the daily that Ryanair apparently did not wish to compete with airBaltic over a small passenger flow.

"The majority of Lithuanians travel with Ryanair from Riga airport as the distance of some 100 kilometers is not significant. Most probably the results of market survey showed them that there is no point to expand in the neighborhood," he added.

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Load-Date: January 20, 2005

BUDGET CARRIER RYANAIR NO LONGER EYEING LITHUANIA 'S MARKET -- REPORT

End of Document



LITHUANIA'S KAUNAS AIRPORT TO BECOME HUB FOR BUDGET FLIGHTS

Baltic News Service

November 19, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 234 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 19

Body

The airport in Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas is set to become a hub for low-cost airlines, a Transport Ministry official said on Friday.

"The ministry's position is that the Kaunas airport should negotiate with all low fares airlines and apply the same pricing policy to all of them," Valdemaras Salauskas, the Transport Ministry secretary, told BNS.

"As far as we know, (the airport) has received proposals only from the Irish discount airline Ryanair so far," he said.

Salauskas was speaking after Friday's meeting with the airport's managers, who presented their positions in future negotiations with low-cost airlines to the ministry's officials.

It was stated during the meeting that there were no obstacles for budget airlines to operate flights from the Kaunas airport.

Salauskas also said that the airports in the capital of Vilnius and the seaside resort of Palanga were likely to revise down their fees too, but not enough to satisfy low-cost carriers.

Ryanair said in early October that it was looking to introduce flights to Lithuania in 2005.

The airline's representatives said during their visit to Lithuania that Ryanair intended to begin services from the Kaunas airport in September 2005 and planned to carry up to 200,000 passengers per year.

Ryanair would fly passengers from Kaunas to five European destinations: London, Stockholm, Tampere, Rome, Milan, Frankfurt and Hamburg.

Load-Date: November 19, 2004

LITHUANIA 'S KAUNAS AIRPORT TO BECOME HUB FOR BUDGET FLIGHTS

End of Document



RYANAIR WANTS TO START FLIGHTS FROM LITHUANIA NEXT YEAR

Baltic News Service

October 1, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 297 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Oct 01

Body

Ryanair, the Irish budget airline, wants to start flights from Lithuania's second-biggest city of Kaunas to seven European destinations within a year.

Berner Berger, a senior executive at Ryanair, discussed the possibility of launching services from Kaunas' Karmelava International Airport with Mayor Arturas Zuokas of Vilnius and Deputy Mayor Erikas Tamasauskas of Kaunas during their meeting in Lithuania's capital on Friday.

"We are only discussing it at the moment, but we would really start flights if the airports lowered their charges," Berger said after the meeting.

Now less than a million people travel to Lithuania by air annually, but Berger said the arrival of low-fares airlines in the market could help boost the traffic up to 5 million people.

Zuokas said that Vilnius welcomed Ryanair's plans to start flights from the strategically well-positioned Karmelava airport and would not compete with Kaunas in attracting the budget airline.

"We are going to call on the Cabinet and the Transport Ministry to reduce airport charges in the near future," he said.

Tamasauskas, the deputy mayor of Kaunas, said that a road from the Kaunas-Vilnius highway to Karmelava to would have to be built if Ryanair began flights from the airport. He added that the airport's passenger terminal would need upgrading as well.

Ryanair would fly passengers from Kaunas to London, Stockholm, Tampere, Rome, Milan, Frankfurt and Hamburg.

It has been reported earlier that the Irish air carrier would pay around 1,700 litas (EUR 493) to the Kaunas airport per flight, which is at least five times less than the airport charges for its services now.

RYANAIR WANTS TO START FLIGHTS FROM LITHUANIA NEXT YEAR

Ryanair announced in July that it was to start flying from Latvia's capital of Riga to London, Frankfurt and Tampere on Oct. 31.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Load-Date: October 1, 2004

End of Document



RYANAIR INTERESTED IN STARTING FLIGHTS TO LITHUANIA

Baltic News Service

September 30, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 153 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Sep 30

Body

Ryanair, the Irish budget airline, is interested in starting flights to the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius and the second-biggest city of Kaunas.

Bernard Berger, a senior executive at Ryanair, is coming to Vilnius on Friday to discuss this possibility with Arturas Zuokas, mayor of Vilnius, and Erikas Tamasauskas, deputy mayor of Kaunas.

"The meeting between the Ryanair representative and the city officials of Vilnius and Kaunas is being arranged at the company's initiative," Birure Vainiene, deputy mayor of Vilnius, told BNS.

She said that representatives from the airports of Vilnius and Kaunas would not participate in the meeting.

Ryanair announced in July that it was to start flying from Latvia's capital of Riga to Frankfurt and Tampere on Oct. 31.

According to media reports, Ryanair showed interest in starting services from Vilnius earlier this year as well, but abandoned this idea due to high airport taxes.

Load-Date: October 1, 2004



LITHUANIA STANDS TO LOSE TOURISTS AS LOW COST AIRLINES CHOOSE NEIGHBORS -- REPORT

Baltic News Service

September 3, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 317 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Sep 03

Body

Lithuania stands to lose up to 100 million litas (EUR 2.9 mln) in tourism revenues annually after low fares airlines have chosen the neighboring countries for route expansion into the Baltics, the business daily Verslo Zinios reported on Friday.

But the tourism industry remains hopeful that someday the low cost operators will be able to overcome the opposition from Lithuanian authorities, which are protecting the interests of the national air carrier Lietuvos Avialinijos (Lithuanian Airlines), and begin services from the Vilnius airport.

Britain's low cost airline easyJet announced this week that it is due to start services from Estonia and Latvia. It is to open a new route from Tallinn to London in late October and begin flying from Tallinn and Riga to Berlin in November.

Its bigger rival, Ireland's Ryanair, announced in July that it is to start flying from Riga to three destinations -- London, Frankfurt and Tampere -- on Oct. 31.

Both easyJet and Ryanair are interested in starting services from Vilnius as well, but their say that the airport taxes are too high for them. The airports in Riga and Tallinn had to reduce their airport and passenger charges to attract Europe's leading low fares airlines.

"We are interested in the Vilnius airport, but it is too expensive and does nothing to lower costs. The airport risks being left behind (by its competitors)," the paper quoted Toby Nicol, corporate communications manager at easyJet, as saying.

LITHUANIA STANDS TO LOSE TOURISTS AS LOW COST AIRLINES CHOOSE NEIGHBORS -- REPORT

"If the low cost airlines abandon their intentions (to run flights from Vilnius) altogether, we stand to lose five to seven percent of tourists, and even more in the future," said Kestutis Ambrozaitis, president of the Lithuanian Tourism Association.

He said Lithuania would loose 50,000 to 100,000 tourists per year, which would lead to the industry losing at least 33 million to 75 million litas in revenues annually.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Load-Date: September 3, 2004

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RYANAIR DID NOT SHOW CLEAR INTEREST IN LAUNCHING OPERATION IN ESTONIA - MINISTRY

Baltic News Service

July 28, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 305 words

Dateline: TALLINN, Jul 28

Body

The Irish budget airline Ryanair, which last year came to Estonia to test the ground, did not show clear interest in launching operation in this Baltic state, a senior Economy and Communications Ministry official says.

"The ministry waited for Ryanair to make a concrete offer to launch flights from the Parnu airport," head of the economic development department Ahti Kuningas told BNS on Wednesday. "Talks could have been opened after the firm made its interest clear."

Ryanair should also have indicated which obligations it was ready to assume, Kuningas said. "Principles of fair competition do not admit of the state going to a concrete company with an offer," he said. "There are many such companies and as a rule their demands are such that they are hard to comply with."

As Kuningas sees it, Ryanair is seeking an infrastructure in which it need not itself invest and low airport fees. "We proposed a meeting, but they did not wish to get together. Probably what Estonia has to offer at the present is of no interest to them."

The no-frills airline announced on Tuesday plans to launch at the end of October flights from the Latvian capital Riga to London, Frankfurt and Tampere.

"The Tallinn airport asks from carriers a fee of 15 euros per each outgoing passenger, plus aircraft landing and parking charges," Kuningas said. "At the same time the budget airline Volare operating on the Tallinn-Milan route, for example, pays just as high airport fees as Estonian Air."

So far it has not been considered possible to lower airport fees in Tallinn, because the airport has made big investments and the company has a heavy loan burden. The airport's loan payments including interest are about 50 million kroons (EUR 3.19 mln) a year. All told, the firm has loan commitments totaling around 300 million kroons.

RYANAIR DID NOT SHOW CLEAR INTEREST IN LAUNCHING OPERATION IN ESTONIA - MINISTRY
(EUR 1 = EEK 15.65)

Load-Date: July 28, 2004

End of Document



ESTONIA'S TALLINN AIRPORT HOLDS TALKS WITH EASYJET

Baltic News Service

July 28, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 222 words

Dateline: TALLINN, Jul 28

Body

The Tallinn airport is holding talks with the budget airline Easyjet over launching flights, marketing director Eduard Tuur says.

"If we were to meet them halfway, we'd have to lower airport fees for all carriers," Tuur told the daily Postimees. "One option to do it would be to lower fees outside rush hours."

The Riga airport, from which another well-known no-frills airline, the Irish Ryanair, will begin operating flights soon, is also in negotiations with Easyjet.

Ahti Kuningas, head of the Economy Ministry's economic development department, said an important factor for airports to operate profitably and earn a profit is the size of population of the corresponding region, in which Riga unfortunately has a clear advantage over Tallinn.

"On the other hand, the price policy is not the only criterion in attracting airlines to a region, frequently the quality of service and for example investments in airport security matter more, but they in turn play a role in the pricing policy," Kuningas said. "Estonia has so far made efforts to ensure that the airport is safe for clients, clean and meeting all requirements, hence the price policy of our airport."

Ryanair announced on Tuesday it would at the end of October launch flights from Riga to London, Frankfurt and Tampere. The firm has also opened a Latvian-language Web site.

Load-Date: July 28, 2004



ESTONIAN AIR SEES NO COMPETITION IN RYANAIR'S EXPANSION TO RIGA

Baltic News Service

July 28, 2004

Copyright 2004 Baltic News Service



Length: 169 words

Dateline: TALLINN, Jul 28

Body

Estonia's national carrier Estonian Air perceives no direct competition in the Irish budget airline Ryanair's expansion to the Latvian capital Riga; Ryanair is launching flights to three countries from Riga in the fall.

"We always welcome further development of commercial aviation across the world," Estonian Air President Erki Urva told BNS on Tuesday.

"Estonian Air is not flying to Riga and we have at present no commercial interest in the Latvian market, thus, developments in Riga do not directly affect us."

Urva added that right now AirBaltic too is already offering cheap flights from Riga to London and many other European destinations. "Estonian Air likewise offers flights from Tallinn to 13 and soon to 15 European cities," he stated.

Ryanair announced on Tuesday plans to launch at the end of October flights from Riga to London, Frankfurt and Tampere. The firm has also opened a Latvian-language Web site. Fares are extremely low, which may make starting flights from Riga very attractive to Estonians.

Load-Date: July 28, 2004



LATVIAN VICE-PM SET TO PUSH ISSUE OF BUDGET AIRLINES AT RIGA AIRPORT BY FEB

Baltic News Service

December 23, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 416 words

Dateline: RIGA, Dec 23

Body

The Latvian Deputy Prime Minister Ainars Slesers is set on pushing the issue of accommodating Europe's budget airlines at the Riga international airport by raising the question for a government meeting by February next year.

Slesers announced earlier in December that he is preparing to suggest a new strategy of operations for the Latvian capital's airport, allowing Europe's budget airlines to hub at Riga, thus boosting revenues for the airport and tourism in Latvia.

The deputy PM has now announced that February next year is the final moment for making a clear decision, as Latvia must know what it wants by EU accession in May.

"By May we must know what we want, because the budget airlines are looking to move to Riga, Parnu, Kaunas, and it is therefore important to set out whether we want this," said Slesers.

He said that the new concept for the Riga airport could, for example, foresee reductions to airlines for every 100,000 passengers. Slesers believes that the Riga airport should be promoted as a small aviation center, with the Latvian capital becoming a hub for many destinations further on.

Ryanair has already offers to fly in five directions in the first year after Latvia joins the Open Skies agreement upon joining the EU, said Slesers. The destinations include London, Stockholm, Brussels, Frankfurt and Milan, while a year later the airlines may fly also to Rome, Berlin, Oslo and Paris.

The Latvian Deputy PM said that reductions on airport taxes should also be applied to all airlines already working at the airport, "thus the Latvian national carrier) airBaltic could also become a budget airline," of course, providing that it increases its planes, number of flights and cuts prices.

LATVIAN VICE-PM SET TO PUSH ISSUE OF BUDGET AIRLINES AT RIGA AIRPORT BY FEB

The view posted by Slesers is firmly opposed by the management of the Riga airport. Deputy chairman of the Riga airport board, Andis Damlics, said that "budget airlines, like Easyjet, work only with small airports, which means that they can not offer transit opportunities, thus causing great difficulties."

Damlics also said that the proposal could cause losses to traditional airlines operating at the airport, like British Airways and airBaltic, which will automatically have a bad toll on the airport and the big airlines may even leave the airport altogether.

Slesers previously claimed that Ryanair is already prepared to use the airport, ensuring up to 600,000 passengers a year, which is just as much as the ten airlines operating at the Riga airport currently handle annually.

Load-Date: December 23, 2003

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BRITISH AIRWAYS PREDICTS GROWTH OF PASSENGERS ON RIGA-LONDON ROUTE IN 2004

Baltic News Service

December 16, 2003

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Length: 261 words

Dateline: RIGA, Dec 16

Body

The number of passengers using services of the Riga airport in the Latvian capital Riga will grow next year, including at least a 15-20 percent growth for passengers flying between Riga and London, said Toms Andersons, the Latvian representative of British Airways operating the route.

He said passenger growth next year will be due to expected reduction of prices as low-cost airlines will enter the Latvian market and also improvement of general economic situation in the Baltic state.

Competition between air carriers in Latvia and in the world will increase next year, said Andersons. The Latvian market will have to divided anew, once low-cost operators make their entry but British Airways is certain it won't lose its market position because its offers will be competitive.

Andersons believes that the leading European low-cost airline Ryanair won't be flying to Riga because it would go against their concept of never flying to main airports in any country. At the same time, Britain's EasyJet, also a low-cost operator, could enter the Latvian market.

Internet bookings of airplane tickets in Latvia will continue to grow in Latvia. If early this year 2.9 percent of tickets were booked through the web, in October the rate had risen to 7.5 percent already, said the British Airways representative in Latvia.

In eleven months of this year British Airways carried 56,056 passengers between Riga and London, up 5.9 percent year-on-year.

Throughout 2002 the British airline carried 57,126 passengers on the Riga-London route, a growth by 8.3 percent from 2001.

BRITISH AIRWAYS PREDICTS GROWTH OF PASSENGERS ON RIGA-LONDON ROUTE IN 2004

Load-Date: December 16, 2003

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LATVIAN VICE-PM WORKING ON PLAN FOR BUDGET AIRLINES TO HUB AT RIGA AIRPORT

Baltic News Service

December 10, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 345 words

Dateline: RIGA, Dec 10

Body

The Latvian Deputy Prime Minister Ainars Slesers is preparing to suggest a new strategy of operations for the Latvian capital airport Riga, allowing also for Europe's budget airlines to hub at the country's modernized main airport.

The Kommersant Baltic Daily reported that Slesers claimed that Ryanair is already prepared to use the airport, ensuring up to 600,000 passengers a year, which is just as much as the ten airlines operating at the airport currently handle.

Slesers said that Ryanair wants to fly to London and Stockholm twice a day from Riga, daily to Brussels Frankfurt, Belgrade and later also to Rome and Oslo.

The unpopular Latvian deputy PM, has announced that Ryanair would be offering flights for an average price of around 44 euros. "Of course, some flights will be more expensive, others cheaper. But compare: if you want to buy a ticket to Copenhagen now in haste, you'd pay around 470 lats (EUR 700)!" he said.

Slesers said that he plans to attract the budget airlines to Riga airport by offering reductions on airport fees. "My suggestion is such that airports should offer reductions depending on the number of passengers. If 100,000 passengers are handled, the reduction is such, if 200,000 passengers are handled a year, the reduction is such and so on," said the deputy PM, adding that specific figures will be discussed with the Transport Minister next week.

He said that he is sure the policies at Riga airport will be changed, thus boosting the annual turnover of passengers at Riga airport from 600,000 to 2 or 3 million, thus boosting also tourism and construction.

LATVIAN VICE-PM WORKING ON PLAN FOR BUDGET AIRLINES TO HUB AT RIGA AIRPORT

The daily added that the Riga airport deputy chairman Andis Damlics does not agree, claiming that budget airlines stop at small airports and can not offer transit services to passengers. "For example, budget airlines do not land at Heathrow."

Damlics also said that any such plans could automatically cause serious losses for large companies operating at the Riga airport, like airBaltic or British Airways, which may even lead to such airlines leaving the market altogether.

Load-Date: December 10, 2003

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GERMAN LOW-COST AIRLINES TO TAKE INTEREST IN FLIGHTS TO RIGA: CSA

Baltic News Service

November 28, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 268 words

Dateline: RIGA, Nov 28

Body

Czech Airlines (CSA) expects two or three German low-cost airlines to show interest in flights to the Latvian capital Riga in next five years but doesn't believe in any greater number of new air carriers entering the market.

"Germany is closer to Latvia than the United Kingdom, for example. It takes about three hours to fly from Riga to London, and the cost price is not very cheap," CSA vice-president for marketing and sales Mihal Pozar told the Latvian business daily Bizness & Baltija.

Pozar is quite skeptical about alleged interest by Europe's biggest low-cost airlines EasyJet and Ryanair in flights to Riga.

"I do not know how attractive the Baltics look to Ryanair", he said, explaining that the Irish air company usually considered two aspects before entering a new market -- income per capita and number of holiday-makers.

For these reasons, Ryanair will be more interested in Germany or Austria than Eastern Europe, said CSA representative. On the other hand, the West European market was already saturated and competition was very tough, he added.

As of May 1 next year when Latvia joins the EU it will fall under the EU's open sky policies, allowing EU airlines to freely fly to any EU country they wish without additional state regulation.

EasyJet and Ryanair representatives came to Riga to inquire about prices of services offered by the Riga airport but later told the press this visit should not be interpreted as increased interest in the Latvian capital in their part.

In ten months of 2003 CSA carried 51,276 passengers between Riga and Prague, up 2 percent from the same period in 2002.

GERMAN LOW-COST AIRLINES TO TAKE INTEREST IN FLIGHTS TO RIGA: CSA

Load-Date: November 28, 2003

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LOW FARE AIR CARRIERS KEEP OFF LITHUANIA -- REPORT

Baltic News Service

November 26, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 218 words

Dateline: VILNIUS, Nov 26

Body

Low fare airlines have been penetrating the air space of European countries actively, however, the Lithuanians still have no chances to go to London, Paris or any other remote European city for some 200 litas (EUR 58).

Irish budget airline Ryanair, meanwhile, inquired about possible flights from Vilnius and the Karmelava airport in Kaunas last year.

Representative of the air carrier noted that flights to Lithuania would be entered onto the route map of the company as soon as Vilnius acceded the European Union and joined the Open Skies Agreement in Europe, the Lietuvos Rytas daily has reported.

The airport of Karmelava, which sees its future bound with servicing of planes and passengers of budget airlines, launched talks with the Irish, however, the latest round of talks did not produce any promising results.

In 2004 the Irish company will open a new route to one or another Baltic state, however, analysts doubt that the budget carrier would single out Lithuania.

Low far air carriers strove to get the maximum possible fee discounts from airports, said Vidmantas Kairys, head of civil aviation department at the ministry of transportation.

Ryanair would pay to the Kaunas airport mere EUR 500 per flight, however, the cost of services of the airport reaches at least EUR 2,500.

(EUR 1 = LTL 3.45)

Load-Date: November 26, 2003

LOW FARE AIR CARRIERS KEEP OFF LITHUANIA -- REPORT

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RYANAIR REJECTS ESTONIAN OFFICIALS' COOPERATION PROPOSAL

Baltic News Service

November 7, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 252 words

Dateline: TALLINN, Nov 07

Body

Europe's leading cheap airline Ryanair rejected at the start of this week the Economy and Communications Ministry's proposal to discuss launching of flights to Estonia, the daily Eesti Päevaleht reports.

Ryanair representative Paul Fitzsimmons declined to explain to the paper why the Estonian officials' proposal was turned down, repeating that the firm is in negotiations with around 50 airports across Europe and does not comment on their course individually.

Deputy chancellor of the ministry Signe Ratso said Ryanair has no interest in Estonia in the short term as the country cannot offer a suitable airport in the requisite time. In her words, the airline wants an airport it could start flying to in a couple of months.

The meeting with representatives of the carrier was organized by an agent of the Enterprise Estonia foundation in London.

Martin Jasko, PR adviser at the Economy Ministry, said Ryanair has been exploring also the possibility of launching flights to Latvia and Lithuania. The firm has been in direct contact with the Tallinn and Parnu airports, but not officially with the ministry. It is in view of information received from the said airports and the London representation of Enterprise Estonia that the ministry is convinced of Ryanair's interest in the Baltic region.

"It's hard to find fast solutions for Ryanair concerning the Parnu and Tallinn airports," Jasko said. "Parnu needs investments before the start of regular flights, and in Tallinn high airport charges are the hurdle."

Load-Date: November 7, 2003

RYANAIR REJECTS ESTONIAN OFFICIALS' COOPERATION PROPOSAL

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IRELAND'S LOW COST AIR CO RYANAIR COULD LAUNCH FLIGHTS TO LATVIA: PRESS

Baltic News Service

September 26, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 422 words

Dateline: RIGA, Sept 26

Body

Low cost air company Ryanair, registered in Ireland, is considering possibilities to launch flights to Latvia, indicates unofficial information obtained by Diena, the leading Latvian daily.

Diena wrote Friday that central Latvian city Jelgava was cited as one of the possible destinations of the flights but the infrastructure available there today is not appropriate today.

Ryanair and Latvian party officials neither confirmed, nor denied this information to Diena, saying they did not want to make their plans known to rivals.

Asked if Ryanair has launched talks on flights to any of Latvia's airports spokesman for the company said Ryanair's plans include launching flights to 14 countries in Europe with the company in process or about to launch talks with each of them, confirming the European Union candidate states are among these countries.

Diena noted that the low cost air companies usually don't choose large airports as their destination but rather pick smaller airports which are located near large cities and hence are cheaper.

Representatives of newly founded Lidosta Jelgava airport company in the central city Jelgava, some 40 kilometers away from Riga, declined to reveal further plans of the company citing they did not want to trigger reaction from rivals.

Transport Ministry aviation department director Arnis Muiznieks said Latvia's small airports are not ready to admit the low cost airlines because all the small airports -- "Ventspils, Liepaja and even more so Jelgava need large investment".

IRELAND 'S LOW COST AIR CO RYANAIR COULD LAUNCH FLIGHTS TO LATVIA : PRESS

He did not rule out though Ryanair "possibly, will make flights from London" because the passenger flow is sufficient only on that route.

After accession of Latvia to the European Union, planned for May 1, 2004, the classical air companies operating in Latvia will not be protected by bilateral agreements between states any more with the so called open sky policy taking effect, allowing all Europe's air companies to ensure air traffic in any of the EU member states.

Diena said the low-cost air companies today are developing fast despite general crisis in the air industry, saving on the cost of services and reducing costs for administration of ticket sales, selling tickets via the internet.

According to press reports in Latvia's neighboring countries, Ryanair has also launched talks with Estonia and Lithuania with Parnu and Kaunas respectively cited as destinations there for flights expected to launch in summer 2004. Hamburg, Frankfurt, London and Stockholm were cited as destinations in Western Europe.

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

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LATVIAN DAILY PRESS DIGEST OF BUSINESS NEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Baltic News Service

September 26, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 599 words

Dateline: RIGA, Sept 26

Body

The following is Latvian daily press digest of business news for Friday, September 26:

VENTSPILS NAFTA SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENT, DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE STATE, TERMINATED. The shareholder agreement of Ventspils nafta oil terminal shareholders, closed six years ago and seen as disadvantageous and, Economics Minister Juris Lujans believes, even discriminatory towards the state, has been terminated.

The agreement was terminated after a proposal by Latvijas Naftas Tranzits, the largest private shareholder of VN, and will involve no payment of any charges on the part of the state. The agreement on the termination of the shareholders agreement was Thursday signed on behalf of the state by the Latvian Privatization Agency, Economics Ministry reported.

As a result, the state regains a status of a full shareholder with all the rights provided under the law and will be able to freely decide upon both selling its stake of 38 percent in VN and vote in VN shareholders meetings without coordinating positions with LNT. (Diena, NRA, DB, B&B)

LMT SIGNS INTER-CONNECTION AGREEMENT. Latvijas Mobilais Telefons (LMT) mobile operator president Juris Binde and alternative telecommunications provider Telekomunikaciju Grupa director Girts Meijers have signed inter-connection agreement. This is the first agreement of the kind signed between LMT and any of the new fixed communications operators.

LATVIAN DAILY PRESS DIGEST OF BUSINESS NEWS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The agreement ensures that clients of both operators can communicate between both networks. LMT has nearly 565,000 users while services by Telekomunikaciju Grupa are used by 4,000 legal entities and private individuals. (DB, B&B)

AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW ON PORTS DISTORT POWER BALANCE. The amendments to the law on ports, accepted by the parliament Thursday, are in contradiction with the principles under the local authorities charter and should be seen as returning to the past. "It is returning to the system of the state's ports," said Latvia's local authorities union chairman Andris Jaunsleinis.

The city councils of Riga and Ventspils are set to request President Vaira Vike-Freiberga not to promulgate the amendments to the law.

Specialists in law meanwhile say the lawmaker has again pursued absurd practice adopting substantial amendments to the law just to solve one specific case. (NRA, DB, B&B)

COFFEE FAVORED. Coffee shops chain Double Coffee during its first year of operations generated sales of more than 0.5 million lats (EUR 0.77 mln), which is a "sizeable amount considering that an emphasis was put on coffee drinks," said company marketing director Sindija Vilde. At present the company runs five coffee shops and it plans to open the sixth outlet soon while next year opening of six more coffee shops is planned. As many as 420,000 people attended Double Coffee coffee shops during the year. DC Holding opened the first Double Coffee coffee shop in September 2002. (DB, B&B)

RYANAIR COULD FLY TO LATVIA. Low costs air company Ryanair, registered in Ireland, is considering a possibility to launch flights to Latvia, according to unofficial information obtained by Diena. As one of the possible destinations is cited central Latvian city Jelgava although the city at present does not have appropriate infrastructure for such flights. Neither Ryanair, nor Latvian officials though would confirm or deny these reports saying they don't want to make known their plans to rivals. (Diena)

Dienas Bizness (DB) is Latvian language business daily, Bizness & Baltiya (B&B) and Kommersant Baltic Daily (KBD) are business newspapers published in Russian.

Load-Date: September 27, 2003

End of Document



LATVIA'S AIRLINES NOT TO LOSE OUT ON EU ACCESSION -- SPECIALIST

Baltic News Service

August 20, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 181 words

Dateline: RIGA, Aug 20

Body

Latvia's air carriers will not lose competitiveness after the country's expected EU accession, stated the Latvian Transport Ministry's Aviation Department Director Arnis Muiznieks.

"Latvia's air carriers are seriously working to be ready for competition after Latvia's EU accession, therefore I believe they are strong enough to survive the battle," said Muiznieks.

He said that after May next year, when the Baltic state is set to join the EU, Latvia will not be flooded with budget airlines, but service quality will improve and competition will become fierce. "There's no reason to claim that a whole many new routes will be opened, as the flow of passengers to distant countries from Latvia is almost constant," said the aviation specialist.

The only direct route Muiznieks expects to be launched by budget airlines would be the Riga-London route, while quite a few airlines may also start transit flights through Riga airport. He also mentioned that Ryanair and Easyjet would be the potential airlines that may start new flights to and from Riga after Latvia's EU accession next May.

Load-Date: August 20, 2003



RYANAIR NOT TO FLY TO ESTONIA ANY TIME SOON

Baltic News Service

August 12, 2003

Copyright 2003 Baltic News Service



Length: 237 words

Dateline: TALLINN, Aug 12

Body

The Irish cheap flights company Ryanair need not launch flights from Estonia any time soon, as the firm has no contracts with local airports.

Parnu and Tallinn have been mentioned as Ryanair's potential base airfields in Estonia, but relations have not developed farther from the first fleeting contacts, the daily Aripaev reported.

AS Parnu Lennujaam (Parnu Airport) director Erki Teemagi said that in their case the need to invest into the airport's infrastructure prevents the launching of regular passenger flights.

"It is impossible to launch regular international passenger flights from Parnu at the moment, as this would require significant investments," Teemagi said. "Ideally, we would need hundreds of millions of kroons, the minimum need being about 10 million kroons (EUR 640,000)," he added.

Tallinn Airport marketing director Eduard Tuur said they too had had some contacts with Ryanair, but no agreements had been reached so far.

Tuur said Ryanair wanted to receive a discount to launch flights from Tallinn. "They laid down the terms on which they would launch flights, but we cannot accept them such as they are," he said.

A lower airport tax would give Ryanair an advantage over other carriers, Tuur said. "We cannot drop the airport tax as low as Ryanair would like," Tuur said.

Neither has Ryanair taken contact with the local Aviation Administration concerning the launching of flights.

(EUR 1 = EEK 15.65)

RYANAIR NOT TO FLY TO ESTONIA ANY TIME SOON

Load-Date: August 12, 2003

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