

European airports release latest figures on CO₂ reduction achieved

For immediate release

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Lisbon, 16 June 2011: Two years on from the launch of *Airport Carbon Accreditation*, European airport trade body ACI EUROPE took a moment at its 21st Annual Congress in Lisbon to give an update on the programme.

The institutionally endorsed¹ programme independently assesses² and recognises airports' efforts to manage and reduce their CO₂ emissions. It certifies airports at 4 different levels of accreditation (*Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation and Neutrality*). In the past twelve months, *Airport Carbon Accredited* status has been awarded to a total of **43 airports** in 18 countries, including some of the busiest airports in Europe such as **London-Heathrow, Paris CDG and Orly, Frankfurt Airport, Amsterdam-Schiphol, Munich Airport, London-Gatwick, Zurich Airport, Brussels Airport, Milan-Malpensa, Stockholm-Arlanda and Oslo Airport.**

The geographical spread of airports which have already become accredited covers the wider European continent – including airports as far North as **Trondheim Airport**, as far West as **Shannon Airport**, as far as South as **Athens International Airport** and as far East as **Ankara Airport.**

Some 8 European airports have been accredited as carbon neutral, including 4 in Sweden, 2 in Norway and 2 in Italy. This level recognises that the airports have achieved a significant reduction in their carbon emissions, actively engaging other stakeholders to lower their respective emissions and finally, offsetting any of the remaining CO₂ emissions that are under the airports' direct control.

Ad Rutten, President of ACI EUROPE and COO of the Schiphol Group said "*Year Two of Airport Carbon Accreditation has surpassed all expectations. We now have two entire airport groups accredited by the programme, as well as 7 airports that have moved up a level in their accreditation. We have more than doubled the number of accredited airports and gained the recognition and support of European Commission Vice-President in charge of Transport, Siim Kallas.*"

He added "*Accredited airports welcome over 600 million passengers each year and Year 2 has yielded a reduction of over 720,000 t CO₂ – equivalent to taking 180,000 cars off the roads. This isn't some shallow commitment – this is concrete action being taken now and producing real results. European airports of all sizes and geographical location are engaged in responding to Climate Change.*"

ENDS

Notes for editors:

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has estimated that aviation's total CO₂ emissions account for 2% of global emissions' impact on climate change. Of that figure, airports' own operations only account for up to 5%, but European airports are keen to tackle their greenhouse gas emissions – several individual airports operators having already committed to becoming carbon neutral in the past few years with some having already achieved this.

¹The programme is administered by leading consultancy WSP Environment & Energy and overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives

of the European Commission, ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) EUROCONTROL and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme).

²**WSP Environment & Energy** is the administrator of *Airport Carbon Accreditation*. It is one of the world's largest environmental consultancy firms employing over 1,000 staff globally to provide innovative solutions to environment-related business issues. WSP Environment & Energy leads the field in carbon and climate change advice.

More information is available: <http://www.wspenvironmental.com/>

For further information about **Airport Carbon Accreditation**, including an up to the minute list of accredited airports, please visit www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org

For further information about aviation and the environment please go to: www.enviro.aero

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.5 billion passengers each year.