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Airports' action to reduce CO₂ continues to gain momentum

For immediate release

27 January 2010

Brussels, 27 January 2010: Participation in *Airport Carbon Accreditation* continues to grow. The institutionally endorsed¹ programme independently assesses² and recognises airports' efforts to manage and reduce their CO₂ emissions and certifies airports at 4 different levels of accreditation (*Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation* and *Neutrality*). In the past two months, *Airport Carbon Accredited* status has been awarded to seven more airports across Europe:

In the UK, **Manchester Airport** - an established leader in environmental innovation across the entire Manchester Airport Group - qualified for the *Reduction* level of accreditation. Elsewhere in the UK, business aviation specialist, **Farnborough Airport** also became accredited at the *Mapping* level, sending a clear message that airports of all sizes are treating Climate Change as a priority.

In Greece, **Athens International Airport** - which has a full 360° approach to its energy and emissions, including recycling targets and a photovoltaic park project underway - gained the *Mapping* level of accreditation.

In Italy, SEA Milan Airports has succeeded with the accreditation applications of both **Milan-Malpensa Airport** and **Milan-Linate Airport**. As a result, they became the first airports accredited at the *Optimisation* level, whereby the airport company doesn't just reduce its own CO₂ emissions, but also engages with others on the airport site to help them lower their carbon footprint as well.

Also, in Italy, up and coming regional airport **Bologna Airport** achieved accreditation at the *Mapping* level. This represents a further step in its current commitment towards energy-saving and emissions reduction.

And finally, in Sweden, **Stockholm-Bromma Airport** joined its sister airport, Stockholm-Arlanda in gaining the *Neutrality* level of accreditation. This level recognises that the airport has achieved a significant reduction in its carbon emissions, that it actively engages stakeholders on its site to lower their respective emissions and that it has offset any of the remaining CO₂ emissions that are under its direct control.

These latest additions bring the cumulative total of CO₂ reductions from *Airport Carbon Accredited* airports in Europe to 440,000 tonnes so far.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE said "Despite the various challenges facing aviation at the moment and airports in particular, it is heartening to see the active response and significant resources that European airports - big and small - are investing in reducing CO₂ from their operations. Some are just beginning the process, while others are already well advanced, but carbon neutrality for European airports remains the goal."

He added "These recent accreditations are tangible evidence that our collective efforts are gaining momentum. We look forward to announcing more progress in the months to follow."

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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.

¹At last year's launch of *Airport Carbon Accreditation* in June, over 30 airports – accounting for 26% of European passenger traffic – committed to becoming *Airport Carbon Accredited* by June this year. The programme is comprised of 4 progressive levels of accreditation: *Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation* and *Neutrality*. The 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).

²WSP Environment & Energy 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/>

Last autumn, **Frankfurt airport (Fraport)**, **Izmir airport (TAV)** and **Stockholm-Arlanda (LFV)** were all awarded *Airport Carbon Accredited* status.

For further information about ***Airport Carbon Accreditation***, including a full list of participants, please go to 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.