

PRESS RELEASE

ISSUE 2006: 21

Thursday, 21 December 2006
For Immediate Release

Association of Asia Pacific Airlines
(Reg. No. 587)
9/F Kompleks Antarabangsa
Jalan Sultan Ismail
50250 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Tel +603 2145 5600
Fax +603 2145 2500
www.aapairlines.org

AAPA voices concern over EU's unilateral approach to aviation emissions trading

Reacting to the proposals by the European Commission (EC) to include aviation in the European Union (EU) emissions trading scheme (ETS), the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has voiced several concerns. In particular, international airlines and non-EU governments are likely to take exception to the unilateral approach being taken by the EC in seeking to impose such charges on international airlines operating in international airspace outside the EU.

Mr. Andrew Herdman, Director General of the AAPA, said:

“Aviation is already highly efficient, and fully committed to making further continuous improvements in fuel efficiency, even without any additional incentives. In addition, air transport already covers the full costs of infrastructure, including airports and air navigation service providers.”

Mr Herdman added: “The benefits of including aviation in an open, ideally global, ETS would come from funds being channelled to other sectors where there are much greater opportunities to improve energy efficiencies and realistic possibilities of switching to less carbon intensive technologies. In this way, the benefits of allowing aviation to grow would more than offset the full cost of the environmental impact, whilst contributing significantly to the effort to reduce overall emissions.”

“However, this unilateral action by the EU appears to reject the well-established role of the UN International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) in setting globally harmonised standards for aviation, including environmental issues. In particular, Article 2.2 of the

Kyoto Protocol, as signed and ratified by the EC, provides that policies on emissions from international aviation should be pursued by working through ICAO. An EU directive, insofar as it includes international aviation, is therefore premature. The proposed inclusion of non-EU carriers within the scheme, on the basis of unilateral action by the EU without the consent of other governments, would be extra-territorial in nature and in violation of the tenets of the Chicago Convention and existing international aviation agreements and practice. Simply deferring the inclusion of non-EU airlines by a year does not begin to resolve this highly contentious aspect of the scheme, which could lead to protracted international disputes.”

AAPA is committed to working constructively towards a more coherent and balanced global approach to issues regarding climate change, which can only be achieved through proper consultation with all affected stakeholders.

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association of 17 scheduled international airlines based in the Asia-Pacific region. The AAPA permanent secretariat is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with international representation in Brussels and Washington, D.C. Collectively, AAPA member airlines carry 270 million passengers and 10 million tonnes of cargo representing approximately one-fifth of global passenger traffic and one-third of global air cargo traffic respectively, and thus play a critically important role in the ongoing development of global aviation.

For further information on the press release, please contact:

Office of the Director General

Tel: +603 2145 5600 Fax: +603 2145 2500

email: odg@aapa.org.my

www.aapairlines.org