

PRESS RELEASE

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AAPA Environment EU ETS

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AAPA blasts EU ETS decision

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia – Condemning the decision by the European Parliament to include aviation in the European Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) Director General, Mr. Andrew Herdman said, “European legislators have again overreached their authority in seeking to impose this scheme on international airlines operating outside European airspace. At a time when world leaders are working towards a common understanding on climate change, this particular decision can only be described as an unhelpful provocation. More than 130 non-EU governments have already made their opposition abundantly clear at the ICAO Assembly in September 2007, when the EU proposals were firmly rejected as incompatible with the Chicago Convention governing international aviation.”

“One of the most offensive aspects of the scheme is that Europe is, in effect, appointing itself as tax collector-in-chief for international aviation. Like a number of other purported green taxes and levies, there is absolutely no assurance that such funds will be directed towards meeting genuine environmental objectives,” added Mr. Herdman.

The commercial aviation industry is already strongly committed to a range of measures to further improve fuel efficiency, and reduce emissions, with a medium term goal of achieving carbon-neutral growth and long term sustainability.

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Mr. Herdman concluded, "Aviation is more than willing to play its part in contributing to wider efforts to address climate change. We support emissions trading, but as far as international aviation is concerned, we need a consensus on a globally harmonised solution. Consistent with Article 2 of the Kyoto Protocol, ICAO is the only forum in which all 190 States can reach such an agreement. We look to the recently formed ICAO Group on International Aviation and Climate Change (GIACC), which includes representatives from Europe, as the key to resolving the current political impasse, and urge them to make every effort to move the international debate forward."

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Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA)

The AAPA is the trade association of major 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, the 17 AAPA member airlines carry 290 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.

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