

Information

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AEA AND PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET FOR CRISIS DIALOGUE Rebuilding the industry will need political support, AEA tells MEPs

The European airline industry and its regulators came face-to-face today, in a lunch for MEPs and their advisors jointly hosted by the Association of European Airlines and the Romanian MEP Marian-Jean Marinescu. Mr Marinescu is a member of the Parliament's Transport Committee and knows the industry well, having been influential in guiding the Single European Sky successfully through the legislative process.

"The existing European legislation must be implemented as fast as possible, in order to avoid the increase of difficulties in the aviation sector. The Members of the European Parliament shall do more to help in shaping a better tomorrow for this sector, so vital for the European economy" said Mr. Marinescu in his welcome address.

The audience were also addressed by the AEA Chairman for 2009, Ivan Misetic, CEO of Croatia Airlines. Dr Misetic emphasised the profound impact of current economic conditions on the airline industry, which is suffering unprecedented declines in its business, with both passenger numbers and freight volumes far below normal levels and revenues even further depressed.

"There are concrete ways in which political support can help the industry through the crisis", said Dr Misetic; *"introducing flexibility into the airport slot-allocation process, clearing obstacles to credit access and speeding-up implementation of regulation in the field of airport and security charges, and the reorganisation of air traffic management, which will eliminate inefficiency and excess cost"*

- Adria Airways
- Aer Lingus
- AeroSvit
- Air France
- Air Malta
- Alitalia
- Austrian
- bmi
- British Airways
- Brussels Airlines
- Cargolux
- Croatia Airlines
- Cyprus Airways
- Czech Airlines
- DHL
- Finnair
- Iberia
- Icelandair
- Jat Airways
- KLM
- LOT
- Lufthansa
- Luxair
- Malev
- Olympic Airlines
- SAS Scandinavian Airlines
- SWISS
- TAP Portugal
- TAROM
- TNT Airways
- Turkish Airlines
- Ukraine International Airlines
- Virgin Atlantic Airways

The industry had been so weakened by the depth and duration of the current crisis, he said, and the market – particularly for premium products – so radically affected, that the airline sector of the future could be very different from its current configuration. *“Our regulators have an obligation to pursue an efficient and sustainable industry”, said Ivan Misetic, “but they also have an opportunity, in these turbulent times, to design and build a regulatory framework for a strong and competitive European airline sector, more capable of withstanding external shocks in the future”.*

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Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 33 European established scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 366 million passengers and 7 million tonnes of cargo each year, operating 2,617 aircraft serving 662 destinations in 162 countries with 11,585 flights a day. They provide around 394,200 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €79 billion