

## Air transport industry in Germany must prevent further regression

Considering the most recently presented growth rates in Europe, the Board of Airline Representatives in Germany (BARIG) emphatically warns against a continued fall-back of Germany compared to European competitors. Germany's air transport industry is at risk of losing its leading position which would have negative consequences regarding flight offers, the quality of the air network and economy and jobs in general.

In the year of 2016 German airports registered around 232.2 million passengers in total, 3.4 percent more than in the previous year. Within Europe this minor increase means that Germany is trailing behind. For comparison: Great Britain raised their passenger figures by 6.2 percent in 2016, the Netherlands by 8.6 percent, Ireland by 10.4 percent, Spain by 11 percent and Luxembourg even registered an increase by around 11.8 percent.

„This development is alarming, especially because no change in trend can be expected under the given circumstances,“ BARIG's General Secretary Michael Hoppe states. „Rethinking is urgently advised in politics, administrative bodies and airport operators. Germany needs attractive and competitive framework conditions for the air traffic industry and is clearly too expensive at the moment compared to its international competitors. Homemade and unnecessarily costly burdens are currently impeding our growth potential and are even threatening to extinguish it completely.“

The association of around 100 national and international airlines operating in Germany demands a noticeable relief for airlines. The air traffic tax alone implies an annual strain of over 1 billion Euros. In addition, aviation security fees in Germany amount to costs of 700 million Euros. From BARIG's point of view however, aviation security and defence against terror fall within the responsibility of the state and should be accordingly financed by public funds, as is the case in many other countries. The United States, Spain and Italy are good examples to mention in this context.

Moreover, BARIG calls for definite restraint from airport operators. Michael Hoppe points out, „spiralling costs deriving from the continuous increase of charges should be countered by new effective mechanisms. With lower charges for all airlines operating at a certain location, a sustainable growth in passenger figures could be achieved which in turn would obviously be profitable to the airports. More passengers create more revenue for airports since passengers increasingly use airport premises for parking, shopping, dining and so on.“

Regarding airport charges BARIG also advocates for significantly more transparency on behalf of airport operators and demands a fair charges structure that does not favour or discriminate certain players.



## More flexibility for Frankfurt's ban on night flights

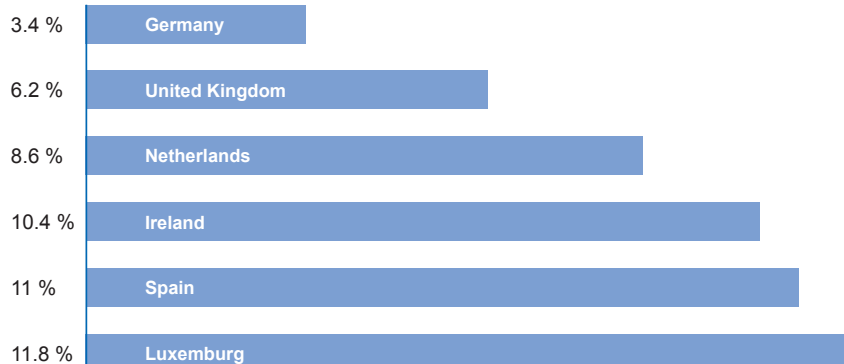
In the beginning of the year, an interview between BARIG General Secretary Michael Hoppe and national German newswire dpa, in which Hoppe had advocated for an increased flexibility regarding the execution of the current ban on night flights in Frankfurt, encountered much positive resonance. Hoppe stated therein: „If an aircraft's boarding is completed and if it has already left its parking position, when an unexpected and blameless delay occurs on the runway, these few seconds should not lead to the denial of the aircraft's departure.“ It was „absolutely irrational and unreasonable“ that delays in the range of a few seconds result in transferring 550 people to hotels, interfering with the passengers' holiday plans and causing costs of several 100,000s of Euros. „Things must remain proportionate.“

In this context Michael Hoppe further remarked that airlines have already put a lot of efforts into meeting the politically defined requirements regarding the ban on night flights. Instead of bargaining over seconds and abiding by the regulations in a dogmatic manner, BARIG believes that leaving an acceptable margin also greatly lies in the interest of the consumers.

The dpa report was picked up by numerous regional and national media in January 2017.

### 2016 passenger growth in Europe

source: BDL





## BARIG Full Board to take place in Jumeirah Hotel



The date for the first Full Board meeting of 2017 is

now fixed. The meeting will be held at the Jumeirah Hotel in Frankfurt on the 25th of April. The hotel is located in the city centre and will be the Full Board's venue for the first time. Moreover, the hotel is easily accessible by public transport, situated only a few minutes away from the Zeil and Hauptwache. BARIG members will receive further information regarding the Full Board and its agenda in good time prior to the event.

## Travelport is new BARIG business partner



For companies seeking communication channels with Germany based airline representatives, the Board of

Airline Representatives in Germany (BARIG), counting around 100 member airlines as of now, represents the ideal platform. More

and more companies are acknowledging the chances offered by a cooperation with BARIG and decide to become official business partners. BARIG's newest partner is Travelport, a global airline partner which develops advanced technical solutions that aid airlines in efficiently distributing flight offers, services and other products through both traditional and online travel agencies.

BARIG General Secretary Michael Hoppe: „We are very pleased to welcome our newly acquired business partner. With Travelport we are introducing the new BARIG business partner segment 'Technology & Innovation', thereby enhancing our internal expertise in this crucial area.”

BARIG features business partners from various sectors including Car rental; Coaching & Consulting Services; Hotels; Legal Services; and most recently Technology & Innovation.

## Jubilee Event: 5 Years of Spring Brunch

More than 80 participants attended the traditional BARIG Spring Brunch in Hilton Frankfurt Airport Hotel on the 1st of March. As in previous years, the Hilton Frankfurt Airport Hotel, the Fraport AG

and Wicke Attorneys supported the event as official partners. In addition, BARIG's member airlines and business partners endowed numerous prizes for the raffle. The year 2017 meant the celebration of a small jubilee since the networking event already took place for the fifth time, thereby establishing itself firmly as a date to remember in the airline industry.



BARIG Secretary General Michael (2. from left) with the sponsors who supported the fifth Spring Brunch: Winfried Hartmann (left), Senior Vice President at Fraport; Holger Strahl (2. from right), Wicke Attorneys; and Florian Winkler, Director Sales at the Hilton Frankfurt Airport.



## New "barig.member benefit" Winners

Our regularly organised lottery "barig.member benefit" is another example depicting the close cooperation between airlines and industry-related firms. Once again several partners have contributed to the campaign's success with attractive prizes. The main prize, a voucher with a value of 300 Euros to be redeemed in the Main Tower Restaurant in Frankfurt, kindly made possible by Crowe Horwarth Frankfurt, was won by Eric Lanoy from ANA All Nippon Airways. Beatrice Besnuns from Royal Jordanian was excited to receive a Harold's Day Walker Business Trolley, made available by BARIG Business Partner Airliner Crews Service Centre. Sabine Rittmeyer from Thai Cargo won SunExpress flights to a destination of choice for two persons, Andrea Hobohm from Etihad Cargo won a seven overnights stay with half board in Sentido Hotel Bellazure in Turkey and finally, Silvana Roma from TAP Portugal won a weekend Sixt car rental. Congratulations to all winners!



## BARIG Information:

barig.aero

Publisher: BARIG e.V.

Responsible: Michael Hoppe  
Executive Director / Secretary General

Frankfurt Airport Center (FAC) 1

Hugo-Eckener-Ring, 60549 Frankfurt

Phone +49 69 23 72 88

barig@barig.aero

www.barig.aero

Editorial: Claasen Communication,  
Michael Hoppe