

Dear members and friends of BARIG,



the air traffic and tourism industry can be a driving economic factor in those countries that provide the right framework conditions. The airline sector is experiencing increased pressure: high costs, improvable air space management and an inefficient framework are burdening the industry immensely and causing greatly impaired results. A disappointing performance in European air space management as well as flight cancellations and delays led to major capacity bottlenecks in 2018, especially during peak times in Germany.

Air traffic is expected to experience further but lightly cooled off growth. It is therefore high time for politics to jointly campaign in Europe. National particularities, training regulations for flight controllers, procedures in air traffic control and the organization of flight routes must be immediately revised in a vigorous manner and undergo the necessary changes. The plentifully invoked Single European Sky that was proclaimed as early as 2004 has been overdue for many years now.

Massive delays due to inefficient passenger controls and general bottlenecks owing to backward infrastructure are truly putting the patience of passengers to the test, while airlines and their system partners are working hard to improve the situation. In this regard too, however, politicians and authorities urgently need to set the right course. Many disturbances within the system could in fact be easily resolved by simplifying bureaucracy or abolishing long outdated orders and regulations.

In addition, more and more modern airports are emerging outside of Europe. If core Europe wants to secure its pole position then action is required as soon as possible. BARIG and colleagues from the German air traffic industry will emphasize this crucial aspect also in the upcoming high-level monitoring talks with the Federal Minister of Transport Andreas Scheuer at the end of March. After all we need to act now to further guarantee the future mobility of people, goods and services in the familiar high quality.

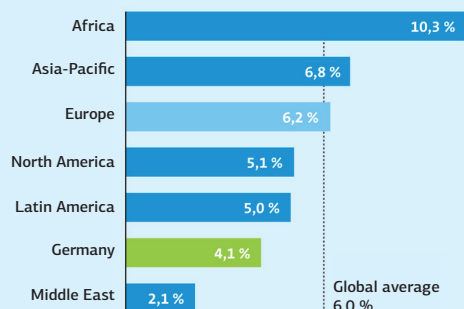
In this spirit I wish everyone lively and convincing discussions at the ITB.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Hoppe
Chairman and Secretary General

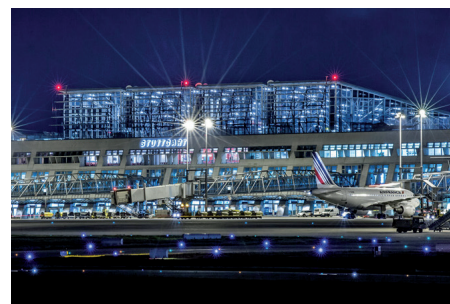
Growth at airports 2018 (in passengers)



Passenger volume at German airports continued to grow but below average (Source: bdl.aero)

Air traffic needs political support

All involved parties are working intensely on the operative implementation of the measures that were carved out at the high-level industry talks in Hamburg on the 5th October 2018, aimed at bringing substantial improvement to the situation in air traffic and for passengers. However, efforts to achieve qualitative upgrades in air traffic often depend on political framework decisions and an increased determination of politicians and authorities is required here. The aviation industry stands ready to provide recommendations as well as solutions for implementation.



Air traffic growth leads to positive economic effects and enhances connectivity. (Photo: Stuttgart Airport)

The continued growth in air traffic calls for urgent action. Bottlenecks in air traffic control as well as logistics must be resolved so that air traffic in Germany can flow reliably and smoothly again.



Infrastructure must be competitive in the long term. (Photo: Munich Airport)

Need-oriented air traffic infrastructure

Air traffic needs modern and efficient infrastructure. At multiple locations, however, the existing infrastructure failed to grow in accordance with growing market demands.

This leads to capacity bottlenecks at airport terminals with unnecessarily lengthy processes and unhappy passengers as well as costly disturbances and delays that burden the entire system. To avoid falling behind in international competition, the need-oriented development of airports must be further promoted in a transparent manner and following detailed analysis to only invest and implement what is really demanded.



Modernization and harmonization of air traffic control is necessary.
(Photo: Munich Airport)

Action required in European air traffic control

The demand for increased capacity in European air traffic control space is identified since the end of the 1990s. Related measures for capacity increases and enhanced efficiency have been initiated by the European Union under the headline „Single European Sky“ (SES). Concerning potential measures for efficiency increases, the national air traffic control services are still facing many regulative and legal hurdles, mainly on the European level. To enable a sustainable expansion of European air space capacity, modern air traffic management and its efficient usage, intensified initiatives from the EU and its member states are required especially in the following areas:

- Establishment of need-oriented staff resources and flexible deployment of flight controllers.
- Air navigation services should be automated in critical areas and be assumed by information and communication technology with the goal of further enhancing efficiency and security.

- Optimization of cross-border cooperation.
- Flexible usage of military air space must be further maintained and expanded.



Air traffic continues to grow worldwide.
(Photo: Munich Airport)

Efficient security checks

The targeted implementation of modern, reliable technologies and the increase in staff resources must be accompanied by additional measures in order to significantly improve flight security controls in Germany which are currently still performed inefficiently compared to other countries. Especially German politics, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the Federal Police are called upon here to make decisions. Our industry is available at any time to assume more responsibility in the organization of passenger and luggage controls and to introduce new processes and steering mechanisms. While the Federal Police would further retain sovereignty, procedures and on-site staff deployment could then be organized in a more flexible and need-oriented manner. Moreover, border controls must be accelerated through increased personnel deployment on behalf of the Federal Police.



More efficient processes for more content passengers.
(Photo: Stuttgart Airport)

Consumer protection and passenger data

Due to the extraordinary conditions in European air traffic in the summer of 2018, many flights and their respective passengers were affected by partially massive delays. On this basis, the high-level industry talks led to the definition of two important topics regarding consumer protection: improvement of contact points for passengers as well as the provision of preferably electronic channels for complaint management. However, the rapid establishment of contact and support on behalf of the industry also requires the provision of data from customers. Passengers must therefore initially accept specific conditions to then receive fast and high-quality services in special situations. Our industry is open and ready to develop solutions in this respect, yet a sense of togetherness is a prerequisite here.



Consumer protection needs to be improved.
(Photo: Stuttgart Airport)

Imprint:

barig.aero

Publisher: BARIG e.V.

Responsible: Michael Hoppe

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 GmbH,
Michael Hoppe