



Missed opportunities and new attempts: Aviation industry to face a difficult year 2017

In 2016, politics have missed important chances to quickly and sustainably stabilize the aviation industry as a dynamic economic sector in Germany. Contrary to expectations, the national air traffic concept, which is highly important for the industry, has not been finalized. As the concept's key aspects are a step into the right direction, the industry is waiting for the Minister of Transport to push ahead with the decision and present the final concept early 2017.

The same applies for the highly controversial air transportation tax which constrains a healthy development of air traffic in Germany and therefore must be abolished. Additionally, our industry suggests to use the already generated earnings from this incriminating tax, which amounts to around one billion Euros annually, to assist technical and sustainable innovations for the aviation industry. We also expect the government to reduce the financial burden created by the aviation security charges amounting to around half a billion Euros annually. In various EU countries like Italy and Spain as well as in the U.S., the state budget bears a large part of the costs as macro-social responsibility for hazard control and terrorism defence.

Financial burden continues to grow

In 2017, airlines will have to cope again with an increasing financial burden which could be massive, depending on how fast oil prices are rising. It is therefore important to monitor other cost pools, particularly those caused by large airports that continue to intensively use the system and draw high profits through the airlines and their customers. Airlines have to pay more than 2.8 billion Euros annually for the use of German airports.

Moreover, incentive programs in favour of a small number of airlines that put other, already established airlines at a disadvantage cannot be accepted. A fair competitive environment with equal conditions is essential and needs to be assured by the responsible authorities. BARIG will continue to dedicate itself and focus on these matters in the future.

Safeguarding the aviation location Germany

During full board meetings, our member airlines discuss the industry's key issues. The huge concern about the costs, infrastructure and restrictions in Germany, which is one of the largest European air traffic markets in the passenger and cargo segment, constitutes the most important subject. Against this background, BARIG is willing to accept challenges and continue to professionally support its members on issues related to aviation policy. The basis for this is the comprehensive and international expertise provided by the individual members of our association. The BARIG team would like to take this opportunity and extend its sincere thanks for the successful cooperation and send seasonal greetings to all industry colleagues.



BARIG member airlines during the last Full Board Meeting of 2016 in Frankfurt: Lectures and topics, also from external managers, were intensively discussed. Ulrich Topp (left), Head of Aviation Marketing of Dusseldorf Airport, reported on the most important developments at DUS. Marcel van de Wal (right), Travelport's Senior Commercial Manager Air Commerce Germany, Switzerland & Austria introduced latest innovations and the technical potential of distribution networks.

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