

European Commission commends airports' achievements in reducing CO2

For immediate release

26 October 2010

Brussels, 26 October 2010: En route to the **EU Aviation Summit¹**, taking place in Bruges, Siim Kallas, European Commission Vice President in charge of Transport, presented Brussels Airport with the certificate for its latest achievement within Airport Carbon Accreditation, at a ceremony in the presence of Belgian State Secretary for Mobility, **Etienne Schoupe**.

Airport Carbon Accreditation has established itself as the European standard for carbon management and reduction by airports. It is an independent, institutionally endorsed² annual certification programme, comprised of 4 progressive levels of accreditation: *Mapping, Reduction, Optimisation* and *Neutrality*.

Brussels Airport today became accredited at the 'Reduction' level, thanks to its achievement in reducing its own CO2 emissions by over 10,000 tonnes of CO2.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General of European airports trade body, **ACI EUROPE** said "*Brussels Airport is testament to the business transformation of airports here in Europe, for which ambitious environmental management is essential to delivering efficient and sustainable airport operations.*"

He added "*We are extremely grateful that Vice President Kallas is today recognising that through Airport Carbon Accreditation, Europe's airports have already moved **from words to action**, when it comes to tackling their CO2 emissions.*"

Presenting the certificate, **Siim Kallas, European Commission Vice-President in charge of Transport** commented "*In transport, sustainability is not an 'optional extra' – it has to come as standard. We can only succeed in tackling climate change if the actions of regulators are complemented by citizens and businesses taking action of their own. With over 550,000 tonnes of CO2 reduced so far, I believe that Airport Carbon Accreditation is playing a crucial role in helping move European aviation onto a more sustainable footing in line with the historic agreement reached in ICAO thanks to Europe's leadership.*"

Arnaud Feist, CEO of Brussels Airport said "*the recent opening of our new water purification plant and our successful efforts towards Airport Carbon Accreditation demonstrate that care for the environment goes well in hand with the successful development of an international airport*".

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Notes for Editors:

¹ **The EU Aviation Summit** takes place in Bruges today and tomorrow under the Belgian Presidency of the EU. Subjects on the agenda include: the Competitiveness of the European aviation industry, Safety & Security aspects including cooperation with third countries, the challenge of Climate Change and implementation of the Single European Sky.

² The programme is administered by leading consultancy WSP Environment & Energy and overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives of the European Commission, ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference), EUROCONTROL and UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme).

Since the launch of the **Airport Carbon Accreditation** in June 2009, 23 airports in 12 European countries have become accredited by the programme. These airports represent over 30% of European air passenger traffic.

For further information about **Airport Carbon Accreditation**, including an up-to-the-minute list of accredited airports, please visit www.airportcarbonaccreditation.org/participants

For further information about aviation and the environment please go to: www.enviro.aero

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.5 billion passengers each year.