

PRESS RELEASE

Athens 27/01/09

Athens Airways opens wings

Athens Airways' first flight will take place on the 31st of January. The company's aircraft, the first out of four Embraer 145, has already arrived at Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" and is about to take off, making in this way the first flight of the new airline to Alexandroupolis a reality.

"First flight marks the beginning of Athens Airways commercial operation", stated Sakis Andrianopoulos, President and CEO. "Within the next weeks we will arrange flights to other destinations, beginning from Kavala on the 12th of February, followed by Mytilene on 27th of February and Thessaloniki on 13th of March. Our target is to make all the difference in comparison to competition, offering to our passengers qualitative and innovative services at competitive prices", continued Sakis Andrianopoulos.

Athens Airways was founded in 2008 by the well-known businessman Sakis Andrianopoulos. Company's target is to take over 10% of the domestic flights sector, to destinations where Athens Airways will reach within the first year of operation.

Company received its Air Operator Certificate from the Civil Aviation Authority on the 16th of January 2009.

Athens Airways first aircraft arrived at Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" on the 16th of December 2008. It is the first out of four EMBRAER ERJ-145 jet type, 49-seat airplanes, which the company has ordered until now.

Aircraft is equipped with turbofan – Rolls Royce engines. Reliable, flexible and of low financial risk they are ideal for domestic destinations, but also for flights to neighboring countries, such as the ones selected by Athens Airways for its beginning. Furthermore, they are a clever and flexible charter solution.

After Alexandroupoli, Kavala, Mytilene and Thessaloniki Athens Airways will create significant urban and tourist destinations, such as Rhodes, Mykonos, Santorini, Chania, Herakleion, Zakynthos and Kefalonia. Target is not only to increase destinations within this summer, but also the daily frequency of flights, in order to respond to the increased demand of the tourist season. Moreover, company's plans include the expansion to neighboring countries.

Another target is the creation of charter flights. "Our plan includes mainly destinations with either high demand or not sufficiently covered for the time being. At the same time we give the Greek market the opportunity to plan charter flights, combining qualitative service and flexible transfer of small groups", stated Sakis Andrianopoulos.



Initial investment will amount at 10 to 12 million euros. Total amount of investment is expected to exceed 15 million euros within the next three years. Athens Airways opens more than 165 job positions. Pilots and cabin crew are 75 people, land personnel 40 people, while in regional stations work 50 people in total.

Ticket reservations and bookings are made through Internet at www.athensairways.com, by calling 801 801 4000 (All over Greece only from a fixed phone), 210 – 6696 600 (From a fixed or mobile phone) or 6971 496 600 (From a fixed or mobile phone) or by calling travel agents all over Greece.

For further information:

[Margie Anyfantaki](#)

Public Relations & Communications Director

Tel. 2106026699, Mobile: 6948388431

m.anyfantaki@athensairways.com

Athens Airways Profile:

Athens Airways was founded in 2008 and is a private air transport company based in Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos". Athens Airways offers high quality of services focusing on the safe, fast and reliable transport of passengers to basic domestic destinations (Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli, Herakleion, Mytilene, Santorini, Mykonos, Chania and Rhodes). Athens Airways gives to the passengers the opportunity to enjoy a new level of service before, during and after the flight, offering a whole new travel experience. All passengers will enjoy business class privileges, without discrimination. Athens Airways' fleet constitutes of four EMBRAER jet ERJ-145 type, 50-seat aircraft. Basic destinations from Athens to Northern Greece and islands will be served from March, when all four airplanes will be delivered. CEO and owner of Athens Airways is Sakis Andrianopoulos. Company's headquarters are located in Koropi.

www.athensairways.com

