



news

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***ELFAA – European Low Fares Airline Association launched //
11 Members to lobby for equal competition to enable continued growth
of low fares sector***

BRUSSELS – January 27, 2003 – Wolfgang Kurth, Chief Executive of the German low cost airline Hapag-Lloyd Express today officially announced the launch of the new European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) of which he is President. ELFAA currently represents the interests of 10 airlines from 9 different States - Air Berlin (Germany), Basiqair / Transavia, (Netherlands), Flybe (Great Britain), Flying Finn (Finland), Hapag-Lloyd Express (Germany), Ryanair (Ireland), Sky Europe (Slovakia), Sterling (Denmark), Sverige Flyg (Sweden) and Volareweb (Italy) – who will jointly carry c.49m passengers this year. Further airlines are about to confirm their membership. The members felt that legislation and pricing policies have not been taking low fare airlines into account in the past. ELFAA therefore aims to fill this gap in the representation of the industry.

At a forum attended by various stakeholders from the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission and Eurocontrol Mr Kurth demonstrated how low fares airlines have made a success of liberalisation in the European air transport industry and met all European Community objectives. Mr Kurth commented that : ‘ Low Fares Airlines have made a direct contribution to the European integration process by making air travel possible to price sensitive consumers through lower fares thereby bringing people closer together. By achieving efficiency in air travel through the low cost model, our airlines have made enormous cost savings from the traditional model and these savings have been passed onto the consumer through dramatically lower fares.’

ELFAA will be lobbying hard to ensure that European policy and legislation promote free and equal competition to enable the continued growth and development of low fares into the future so that a greater number of people can travel by air.”

ELFAA’s website has also been launched today and may be seen at: www.elfaa.com

NOTE TO THE EDITORS.

Press packs available by e-mailing: info@elfaa.com

Current Press office : Phone +49 511 5900 500

Fax +49 511 5900 509