



news

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**TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE
OF THE LOW-COST / LOW-FARES BUSINESS MODEL
CONFIRMED BY THE LATEST ELFAA MEMBERS STATISTICS**

Brussels – 11 January 2007. The European Low Fares Airline Association (ELFAA) released today updated statistics to 31 December 2006 for its 11 member airlines. Highlights of the updated statistics for 2006 are:

- Passengers carried: **106 million**.
- Average load factor (percentage of seats filled): **83%**.
- Number of aircraft: **402**.
- Average fleet age: **3.9**.
- Number of employees (app.): **14,000**.
- Number of passengers carried per employee (app.): **7,500**.

Overall, the low fares airline sector currently accounts for approximately 30% of scheduled intra-European traffic.

John Hanlon, Secretary General of ELFAA said:

“These latest statistics from ELFAA members reinforce the low fares airlines’ position as the most environmentally-friendly sector of the industry. Ongoing investment in new aircraft reduced the average fleet age amongst ELFAA members to just 3.9 years at 31 December 2006! This remarkable result, combined with high seat density and industry-leading load factors, result in minimised fuel burn and resultant CO2 emissions per passenger kilometre. This further improved result demonstrates that the low-cost / low-fares business model is highly environmentally sustainable in addition to continuing to deliver substantial tangible benefit to the European economy and consumers.

ELFAA again deplores the UK government’s recent announcement of a doubling of the Air Passenger Duty under the guise of some unspecified environmental principles. The best way to address aviation’s impact on the environment is to encourage the kind of environmental efficiency delivered by the low fares airlines across all sectors of the industry. This cannot be achieved by taxes levied on a per passenger basis and requires a market driven solution, for example, a well designed scheme to include aviation into the EU ETS extending to ALL flights to and from the European Union.”

The ELFAA members December 2006 statistics can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.elfaa.com/documents/ELFAAMembersStatsDec06.pdf>

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

ELFAA’s members statistics are updated every six months, in June and December.

ELFAA airline members include: easyJet, flybe, Myair.com, Norwegian, Ryanair, Sky Europe, Sterling, Sverige Flyg, transavia.com, TUI fly and Wizz Air.

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