



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

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For Immediate Use

BATA Comment on Policy Exchange Aviation Report

Commenting on today's report '*Bigger and Quieter: the right answer for aviation*' published by the Policy Exchange think tank, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association said:

"It is vital for the UK's economic prosperity that we have an aviation policy that addresses the needs of all the UK, without continuing delay.

"This interesting contribution from Policy Exchange is but the latest in a series of contributions that recognise just how vital it is for the UK to develop its international connectivity in order to attract inward investment thus boosting economic prosperity and jobs.

"As the Coalition Government recognises, the UK's economy needs to compete in both established and emerging markets. This requires excellent aviation connectivity right across the country, ensuring the UK has both vibrant point to point airports and sufficient world class hub capacity. This means prioritising a favourable planning and regulatory regime and developing a bold aviation policy, where new airport capacity is required. To ensure there is no further erosion of the UK's competitive position, the Government must set a clear timetable for these measures to be put in place and to prevent the continuation of the see-saw of aviation policy we have experienced over recent decades, this needs cross-party support."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- In 2011, BATA members employed 73,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 129 million passengers and 1.1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The ten BATA member airlines are: British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways, Titan Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- The Policy Exchange Report, 'Bigger and Quieter: the right answer for aviation', published today (Friday 5th October 2012) is available at <http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/>