

Media Release

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For Immediate Use**

BATA Comment on Speech by Shadow Secretary of State for Transport

Commenting on the speech today by Maria Eagle MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Simon Buck, the Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association, said:

“We welcome the recognition that the UK needs a long-term aviation policy that can provide both an immediate and longer term solution to the capacity problem in the South East of England.

We also warmly welcome the concept of a cross-party approach as suggested by the Shadow Secretary of State and believe this would help tackle the damaging ‘stop go’ aviation policies adopted by successive governments. Agreement is urgently needed on how to tackle the chronic shortage of capacity in the South East of England. Today the Prime Minister is talking about an “all-out mission” to kick start infrastructure projects; new airport capacity is privately funded and would cost the Treasury nothing while yielding huge dividends for UK connectivity, boosting the economy and creating new jobs.”

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- In 2010, BATA members employed over 71,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 119 million passengers and 1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The ten BATA member airlines are: bmi, British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- Maria Eagle MP is speaking today (31st October) at the AOA Annual Conference in London.

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