



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

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For Immediate Use

BATA Reaction to Budget

Commenting on today's Budget, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association said:

"I offer only two cheers for the Government following the Budget. The Chancellor makes some promising noises on addressing the lack of airport capacity in the South East but if aviation is to play its part in driving an export led recovery we need a proper aviation policy for the whole of the UK now and not yet more consultation. The UK is losing business now and missing out on developing international links with growing world economies. It is simply not good enough to be fobbed off by the prospect of an expensive new airport in a remote part of the Thames Estuary where nobody lives in twenty years time. By then, it will be too late.

The Chancellor also confirms that the world's highest taxes on flying will get even higher from 1st April this year when UK Air Passenger Duty increases by a whopping 8%. Next year it is set to rise again by a further £2 and £4 per passenger. These level of increases cannot be sustained and make it more expensive for British families to go on a sunshine holiday and for overseas tourists to visit Britain. This lack of joined up thinking must be addressed and we urge the Government to undertake an independent study of the damage the tax is doing to the UK economy."

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.

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