



The Voice of UK Airlines

## Media Release

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For Immediate Use

### BATA Comment on Tourism Speech by Jeremy Hunt

Commenting on the speech made today by Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association, said:

“It is all very well to call for new direct services to China, but with the highest taxes on flying in the world and a severe shortage of airport capacity in the south east of England, we need Government action rather than merely warm words and aspirations. Spending more money on marketing Britain to the world is welcome, but that in itself won’t do anything to address the barriers of tax and airport capacity shortages that the UK faces.”

**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 speech by the Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, can be found at [http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/ministers\\_speeches/9289.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/ministers_speeches/9289.aspx). The speech contains the following text:  
*“Today I am announcing a continuation of the GREAT campaign next year with an £8 million focus on one of the world’s fastest growing economies, China.”* and *“We’ll also be looking at improvements to the visa system and work with airlines and aviation authorities to improve the number of flight connections to China.”*