



Best Airport Awards 2007 – Excellence in airport operations



For immediate release

15 June 2007

Zurich, 15 June 2007: The 3rd ACI EUROPE Best Airport Awards were announced yesterday evening in Zurich during the closing event of the 17th ACI EUROPE Annual Congress "Successfully balancing shareholder pressure and public interests". The event was attended by the European Commission Vice-President and Transport Commissioner, Jacques Barrot. It was the conclusion to a day of intensive exchanges and debates between a wide range of top industry representatives, national government and EU officials on the key challenges European airports are facing, including the environment, capacity, financing and security.

Awards were presented to winning airports by Danielle Calleja, Director Air Transport European Commission; Dr Yiannis Paraschis, Chief Executive Officer Athens International Airport and newly elected President of ACI EUROPE; Josef Felder, Chief Executive Officer Zurich Unique Airport; François Rubichon, Director General of Aéroports de Paris; and Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE.

This years' judging panel was drawn from a well respected group of experts including the European Disability Forum, Swiss International Airlines, Star Alliance Services, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International and UBS.

The winner of the Best Airport Award in the over 25 million passenger category was **Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS)**. In making their choice, the judges were highly impressed by "this airport's constant R&D research for innovative and creative solutions; its work in the development of highly novel systems to simplify passenger operations and improve the customer's experience while also recognizing its environmental responsibilities and maintaining good relations with the local community."

The winner of the 10-25 million passenger category was **Copenhagen Airport (CPH)**. The judging panel described Copenhagen Airport as "being proactive in taking steps to deal with extra pressure expected to come from increasing passenger growth in the coming years and its approach to the challenge of optimising capacity. The airport is also recognised for its particularly good management of the inherent contradictions between dealing with passengers in a speedy manner while doing so effectively."

The winner of the 5-10 million passenger category was **Birmingham International Airport (BHX)**. The judges stated that Birmingham "is a classic example of an airport that has made outstanding efforts to actively sustain relationships with the local community and gain support for the airport expansion while minimising its environmental impact".

The winner of the 1-5 million passenger category was **SAGAT Turin Airport (TRN)**. The judges commended the airport for "the way it handled the Winter Olympics last year and in particular the key role it played in the success of the event by providing great infrastructure, smooth operations while maintaining high levels of security with impressively high levels of customer satisfaction."

The final award recognised airports in the under 1 million passenger category for which the unanimous winner was **Podgorica International Airport (PDG)**, Montenegro, on the basis of "its remarkable and fast evolution from a 'non-existing' infrastructure to an airport that can compete with international standards in an impressively short amount of time".

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Press release

Note to editors:

Photographs of the award ceremony are available upon request. To receive copies of these, or for other information, please contact **Sarah Clarkson**, Communications Manager, ACI EUROPE at sarah.clarkson@aci-europe.com, mobile: +32 (0)486 54 14 71 or tel: +32 (0)2 552 09 82.

Airports Council International (ACI) is the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents some 400 airports in 45 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming over a billion passengers each year.