



European Airports Welcome EC regulation addressing confiscation of duty free liquids from non-EU countries

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For immediate release

Brussels, 31 July 2007 – Airports Council International EUROPE (ACI EUROPE) welcomes the European Commission's announcement earlier today for a new regulation aimed at reducing the confiscation of duty free liquids at community airports for transit passengers arriving from third countries.

This important decision follows on from the security threats that arose last August and the subsequent regulation related to the restriction on carrying liquids in handheld luggage. This regulation continues to have far reaching repercussions for airports across Europe both operationally and financially. One such effect is the fact that airport security staff has been required to request transiting passengers to abandon duty-free liquids purchased at third country airports. This results in unsustainably large volumes of liquids being confiscated on a daily basis. For example, up to more than two tonnes per day at any one of the major European hubs.

Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE, said "We have been working relentlessly with the European Commission on this issue over the past months and I am very pleased that this new regulation has been adopted. This regulation will progressively reduce the amount of liquids confiscated for the benefit of passengers and airports throughout Europe and we look forward to a fast implementation. This is an additional step towards international harmonisation of aviation security which needs to be further pursued as a matter of priority."

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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.

Press release