

28 March 2014

Budapest Airport celebrates Earth Hour with 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions

Budapest, 28 March 2014. As is now traditional, Budapest Airport is once again participating in the voluntary environmental initiative called Earth Hour, for the fourth time. The aim of the global campaign is to call attention to problems caused by environmental pollution and overconsumption. The airport operator's energy rationalisation efforts are best illustrated by the fact that in 2013, it managed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 15% compared to the previous year. The improvement in the quantity of CO₂ released is equivalent to the annual emissions of 115 average Hungarian households.

The Hungarian capital airport will close one of its runways, switch off the related lights and reduce energy consumption in passenger circulation areas and in the nearly 300 buildings located at the airport for an hour at 20h30 on 29 March.

Similarly to earlier measures praised internationally, the airport operator is switching off all airfield ground lighting fixtures (1,622 lights in total) for one of its two runways, including all approach, edge and centerline lights, as well as the special lighting fixtures in the touchdown zone, which have a total output of more than 240,000 Watts, and are so bright that they can normally be seen from a distance of 20 kilometers (12.5 miles). This will of course in no way jeopardize aviation safety, as the other runway will continue to operate, and the lights can be switched back on at any time, if necessary.

The runway blackout is the most spectacular, but by far not the only element of Budapest Airport's participation in the event on 29 March. Many other companies operating at the airport will also join the initiative, whereby lighting will also operate in reduced mode in and around the nearly 300 buildings located within the 1,515 hectare area of the airport. Lights will be switched off completely between 20h30 and 21h30 on Saturday, wherever safe operation will permit. The airport's participation in the Earth Hour initiative will be perceptible for passengers as well, since lighting in the terminal buildings and car parks will be reduced, and that of advertising billboards will be cut completely.

Budapest Airport has made numerous efforts in the interest of environmentally conscious operation. The airport operator launched its energy rationalisation program in 2007, which it has continued to enhance every year, for the sustainable development of the airport. For four years now, Budapest Airport's environmental protection initiatives have been recognised by the European arm of the umbrella organisation for international airports, ACI EUROPE (Airports Council International Europe), which awarded international carbon accreditation to the operator. Carbon accreditation is an international certification system worked out specifically for airports, established in order to achieve a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the sector. Based on methodology applied since 2010, not only natural gas and electricity consumption, but the fuel consumption of the vehicles operated by Budapest Airport also counts towards the total value.

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)



Caption: Budapest Airport's participation in the Earth Hour 2014 initiative will include the closure of one of its runways, switching off related lights and reducing energy consumption in passenger circulation areas and in nearly 300 buildings located at the airport for an hour at 20h30 on 29 March.

Notes for Editors

- Budapest Airport Zrt. is the operator of Budapest Airport. It is owned by an international consortium of investors, led by the privately-owned German company AviAlliance, an independent airport manager holding a 49.67% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (18.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (18.17%), Aero Investment S.á.r.l. (10%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (4%).
 - Budapest Airport welcomed 8.5 million passengers in 2013, flying on the airport's services to 99 destinations across 34 countries.
 - Budapest Airport's route development already announced for 2014 include:
 - Norwegian thrice-weekly service to London Gatwick, starting 30 March
 - Air Serbia daily service to Belgrade, starting 30 March
 - UP by ELAL nine-weekly service to Tel Aviv, starting 2 April (increasing to 11 weekly 1 June)
 - Jet2.com twice-weekly service to Leeds Bradford, starting 3 April
 - transavia.com France thrice-weekly service to Paris Orly, starting 15 April
 - Wizz Air weekly service to Alicante, starting 14 June
 - Vueling thrice-weekly service to Barcelona, starting 20 June (in addition two Easter flights will be offered on 17 and 21 April.)
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Kutaisi, starting 30 September
- To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit www.bud.hu

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