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Budapest Airport strengthens cargo relations with China

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)

Budapest Airport and Ningbo International Airport & Logistics Development Company have signed a strategic cooperation agreement in Shanghai. Ningbo International, an airport with significant cargo development potential, is located in the highly developed economic region of China, approximately 200km from Shanghai. The parties primarily expect an upturn in cargo relations from the cooperation.

Representatives from Budapest Airport and Ningbo International Airport established direct contact in 2014, have now formalised an increasingly close cooperation in an agreement, while complementing the "Opening to the East" policy of the Hungarian government. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, Dr László Szabó, held talks with the Vice Governor of Zhejiang Province and the Major of Ningbo city in June 2015, in Ningbo. During the meeting Dr Szabó welcomed the possibility of launching a direct Budapest-Ningbo link and cargo connection, emphasising the significant contribution the route would have in strengthening economic and trade relations, and further development of associations between Hungary and China. The leaders of Ningbo Airport previously visited Budapest, gaining information on development prospects in Central and Eastern Europe and opportunities for the launch of direct cargo flights. This dialog has now been elevated to a new level with the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement, which was also attended by Olivér Pál Pintér, Deputy Consul General of Hungary in Shanghai, and Wang Renzhou, Deputy Mayor of the Ningbo Municipal Government. The document was signed on behalf of Budapest Airport by Property and Cargo Director, René Droese, along with Senior Cargo Manager, József Kossuth, and by Director, Zheng Zhiyin, Ningbo International Airport and Logistics Development Company.

Ningbo International Airport is one of the fastest-growing airports in the Yangtze River Delta region, handling 6.36million passengers, and approximately 113,000 tonnes of air cargo in 2014. The airport's 3.2km long runway is suitable for all large cargo aircraft. The economic significance of the region is further enhanced by the fact that, in addition to the airport, it also has a busy seaport. The airport plans to increase passenger traffic to 12 million and cargo volume to 500,000 tonnes by 2020, with the most significant development expected in the cargo area.

"The signing of this strategic cooperation agreement is of great significance, it is in the interest of both Budapest Airport and Ningbo Airport to have a direct cargo flight between China and Hungary in the near future," said René Droese, Property and Cargo Executive Director, Budapest Airport, during the signing ceremony. "This agreement foresees even broader cooperation. Budapest would be an ideal Eastern European logistics and distribution hub for Chinese exporters with the 1,000km catchment area of our airport including no less than 19 countries," he added.

Budapest Airport's total cargo volume increased by 2%, and air cargo volume by 7.6% recorded end-October, compared to 2014 figures, the latter considered a good achievement even by international comparison. Chinese cargo traffic is also growing dynamically, with the re-launch of the direct flight between Beijing and Budapest by Air China playing a key role. The flight commutes four times weekly between the two capitals, carrying 10-12 tonnes of cargo on each occasion in the cargo hold of the airliner. Almost the entire cargo capacity has been booked by Hungarian exporters transporting primarily electronics and pharmaceutical products to China, exceeding the volume of Chinese goods brought to Hungary by approximately a quarter. Budapest Airport's delegation travel to the Air Cargo China Summit, an international conference bringing together the world's leading air cargo experts, held at the Shanghai Expo venue, strengthening Budapest's developing position.



Photo caption: René Droese, Property and Cargo Director, Budapest Airport, alongside Zheng Zhiyin, Director, Ningbo International Airport and Logistics Development Company, sign the strategic cooperation agreement formalising increasingly close relations and expected significant cargo development.

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 52.66% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (20.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (22.17%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (5%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 9.1 million passengers in 2014, flying on the airport's services to 88 destinations across 35 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-October 2015 has exceeded +11%.

- Budapest Airport's route development for 2015 include:

Launched since September:

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Birmingham, 15 September 2015;
- Ryanair daily service to Copenhagen, 26 October 2015;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tenerife South, 30 October 2015;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Eilat Ovda, 7 November 2015.

To launch:

- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Nice, starting 11 March 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, starting 11 March 2016;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malaga, starting March 2016;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malta, starting March 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Heydar Aliyev, starting 27 March 2016;
- Ryanair, weekly service to Gran Canaria, starting 3 April 2016;
- Ryanair, weekly service to Corfu, starting 28 April 2016;
- Air Canada rouge, thrice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 10 June 2016.

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