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## Silk Way West: Eastern cargo turnover expands

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)

The number of ATMs completed by Boeing 747 (Jumbo Jets) at Budapest Airport continues to increase. Silk Way West Airlines of Azerbaijan now permanently uses jumbos for its twice-weekly Budapest flight. Since its arrival last March, Silk Way West has doubled its monthly operations between the Hungarian and Azerbaijani capitals, thereby contributing significantly to strengthening economic relations between Hungary and the Caspian republic, as well as the Far East.

Boeing 747-400F aircraft have been commissioned by Silk Way West Airlines on their Budapest route. The Azerbaijani cargo carrier launched its first flight between Budapest and Baku last March, with twice-weekly flights. The airline offers its services in both directions, supporting both export and import between Budapest and the Caucasian Region, and via Baku, also the Far East, China, and from October 2014, South Korea.

Silk Way West quickly got a foothold in the Hungarian market: by the second half of the year they doubled their monthly turnover, and so their larger Boeing 747s had already begun to land in Budapest towards the end of 2014. The dynamic volume growth of air cargo has made it necessary to now use only jumbo jets for the Baku-Budapest flight. The maximum cargo capacity of the Boeing 767-300F operated before was 53 tons, while the 747s can carry 113 tons.

The performance of Silk Way West in the Hungarian market was recently acknowledged by Budapest Airport at its annual gala event where the Azerbaijani company received the title of "Best-Performing New Cargo Airline" reflecting their results last year. József Kossuth, Cargo Manager, Budapest Airport said: "All of our expectations have been confirmed regarding Silk Way West, as they quickly became quite popular in the Central European region. Their two flights per week offer a great opportunity for Hungarian trade as it ensures a modern and fast connection between Hungary, Azerbaijan, and markets in the Far East."

"We are happy with our Budapest operation and will continuously focus on further improvements and expansion both on import and export side as well", said Mr. Nidjat Babayev, VP of Global Sales, Europe and Asia.

Silk Way West Airlines is part of the Azerbaijani Silk Way group of 23 different companies. In addition to air cargo operations, the group portfolio includes ground handling operations with state of the art facilities, business aviation, and also a major airport hotel in Baku. Silk Way West Airlines, as a member of the group, operates its own fleet consisting of three 747-400F and two brand new 747-800F aircrafts, with another three due for delivery by end-2016.

Photos of the operation of Silk Way West Airlines at Budapest Airport can be downloaded here: <http://goo.gl/PbXjpn>



Photo caption: At its recently Annual Gala Event, Budapest Airport awarded Silk Way West Airlines the title of “Best-Performing New Cargo Airline”, accepted here by Nidjat Babayev, Silk Way West’s VP Global Sales, Europe and Asia.

#### 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-January 2015 has exceeded +12%.
- Budapest Airport’s route development for 2015 include:
  - Vueling thrice-weekly services to Barcelona and Rome, starting 27 March 2015
  - SAS four-times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, starting 29 March 2015
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lisbon, starting 30 March 2015
  - Ryanair four-times weekly service to Athens, starting 1 April 2015
  - Wizz Air four-times weekly service to Maastricht, starting 15 May 2015
  - Wizz Air once-weekly service to Hurgada, starting 16 May 2015
  - SkyGreece Airlines twice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 22 May 2015
  - Iberia and Iberia Express seven-times services to Madrid, starting 2 June 2015
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Alghero, starting 15 June 2015
  - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, starting 18 June 2015

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit [www.bud.hu](http://www.bud.hu)

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