

Sajtóközlemény / Press release

Another top position in the region: Budapest has the first carbon-neutral airport!

Budapest, 23 April 2018. April 23. Another major international environmental award has been received by Budapest Airport: ACI (Airports Council International) confirmed that Budapest Liszt Ferenc International Airport achieved the so-called “carbon-neutral” accreditation. The accreditation program launched by ACI has found that the operation of Budapest Airport maintains a balance of energy consumption and energy production. Carbon neutrality means this balance has been achieved, as using conventional fossil-based energy always entails emission of CO₂, that is, carbon emission, or in other words, a carbon footprint. All around Europe, only about thirty airports belong to the carbon-neutral group.

The program of Budapest Airport spanning several years aimed at sustainable operation reached a real milestone. The airport operator launched its energy-rationalization effort ten years ago, thanks to which it was awarded the carbon-neutral accreditation by Airport Council International in April 2018. This means that by applying environmental conscious solutions, the airport has reduced its CO₂ emission generated by its daily operation, and the remainder is balanced out by it in a way that is under international supervision.

In the framework of its program of environmental awareness, Budapest Airport replaced the lighting fixtures in the terminals with energy-saving LED-based systems, and continues to refurbish and maintain the district heating pipes as well as the pumps of its water supply system. It is a key component in the program that air handling and air conditioning equipment of the airport are also upgraded on an ongoing basis. As a result of such consistent efforts, CO₂ emission of Budapest Airport per passenger was reduced by as much as 44% over the last five years.

“In Europe, only thirty airports are in the elite club of carbon-neutral operations, and in Central-Eastern Europe we are the first to receive this accreditation,” underlined Gábor Szarvas, environmental director of Budapest Airport. He added, “Since passenger traffic has been increasing significantly, we are continuously working on making the airport operation greener, in the framework of our Greenairport program. This summer the new passenger pier at Terminal 2B will be handed over, featuring state-of-the-art technologies of heating and cooling. In addition, we continue to increase the number of electric vehicles at the airport and to commission charging stations, reducing CO₂ emissions due to fossil fuels.”

Apart from optimizing its own operation, Budapest Airport is also encouraging its partners at the airport as well as all other organizations and authorities to adopt sustainable practices. The Greenairport initiative was launched three years ago, aimed at making the operation of Liszt Ferenc International Airport sustainable via joint environmental actions. The energy consumption of the airport - based on the energy consumed for making hot water, heating, and lighting - is equivalent with the energy consumption of 23 thousand households, the energy demand of a small town. This is also why adopting environmentally friendly solutions has top priority at the airport.

link to photos: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/FMMBWQmEAMkge5sD2>

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Notes to editors

Budapest Airport is the best airport in Eastern Europe, as recognized by Skytrax in 5 consecutive years, from 2014 to 2018, based on passenger ratings. Budapest Airport Ltd., the operator of Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, is owned by a consortium of Canadian (Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, 21.228 %) and Singaporean (Malton Investment Pte Ltd., 23.334 %) investors, led by AviAlliance GmbH (55.438 %). The terminals of the airport are home to 44 airlines, which transported 13.1 million passengers to 125 airports in 45 countries in 2017 (14.5 % growth rate in 2017 vs. 2016). Budapest Airport handled 127,145 tons of cargo in 2017 (13.4 % growth rate vs. 2016).