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Expanding capacities; growing cargo traffic in Budapest

(Text prepared by Budapest Airport)

Air cargo volumes have been growing dynamically at Budapest Airport since the beginning of the year, as airlines keep offering new cargo capacities. Following a time of stagnation, the economic upturn has also lifted the cargo business, although Ferenc Liszt International Airport does not only serve the cargo needs of the Hungarian economy but other countries in the region too.

Air cargo traffic in March 2015 at Budapest Airport was no less than 10% higher than during the same period last year. In absolute terms as well, the figures evidence a path of development; the 8,300 tons of cargo handled in March is a record when compared to the past three years. Budapest Airport has all the required attributes of an ideal cargo hub; significant development potential, excellent road and rail connections, with 20 European countries accessible by road within the 1,000-kilometre cargo catchment area of the airport.

One of the factors contributing to the growth in cargo traffic is the numerous new airlines on hand for cargo transportation. For example, demand for the cargo aircraft of Silk Way West has increased so significantly since last March that the Azeri airline has been using the latest Boeing 747-8F instead of Boeing 767-300s on the Budapest-Baku route. The daily Emirates flight is able to carry up to 12 tons of belly cargo. Turkish Cargo increased the frequency of its flights to Budapest from 2 to 3 a week, usually flown with Airbus A310 or A330-200s. The Air China service commuting between Beijing and Budapest four times a week as of 1 May 2015 is another significant boost for cargo, as it is able to transport up to 10 tons per flight.

"We are working hard to make sure that more and more cargo airlines choose Budapest, as the large Western European airports are overcrowded, and it is increasingly difficult to find free capacities there," said René Droese, Property Director, Budapest Airport. "At Budapest Airport, all the conditions are in place to develop a leading air cargo hub in the CEE region, as an increased number of cargo aircraft from the Far East are landing here, and transporting Hungarian products of world-class quality from the electronics, pharmaceutical, mechanical engineering and other industries on the return leg. The economic routes of the government's "opening to the East" policy lead through Budapest Airport," he added.

It is precisely with the aim of strengthening the cargo hub role that managers from Budapest Airport are participating at the Air Cargo Europe Exhibition and Conference in Munich this week, where 2,050 air cargo exhibitors from 62 countries are converging. The event, organised every two years, is expected to draw visitors from 110 countries. Budapest Airport representatives have a series of negotiations organised with future potential freighter operators in Munich.

Photos of cargo traffic at Budapest Airport can be downloaded from here:

<https://goo.gl/ITGBcd>

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-April 2015 has exceeded +10%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2015 include:
 - Already launched:
 - Vueling thrice-weekly services to Barcelona and Rome, 27 March 2015
 - SAS four-times weekly service to Stockholm Arlanda, 29 March 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Lisbon, 30 March 2015
 - Ryanair four-times weekly service to Athens, 1 April 2015
 - Air China four-times weekly service to Beijing, 1 May 2015
 - To launch:
 - 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 Bologna, starting 5 June 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Glasgow, starting 13 June 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Alghero, starting 15 June 2015
 - Air Transat weekly service to Montréal-Toronto, starting 18 June 2015
 - Wizz Air daily service to Copenhagen, starting 25 October 2015
 - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Tenerife South, starting 30 October 2015

To find out more on Budapest Airport, visit www.bud.hu

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