

10 February 2014

Budapest Airport rewards partners for excellence in aviation development

- Qatar Airways and Wizz Air take best developing airline prizes
- Alitalia, Turkish Airlines, Finnair recognised for growth, marketing and punctuality
- “Best Performing” Cargolux wins in class; Norwegian is fastest-growing low-cost

6 February 2014: Budapest Airport hosted an evening of recognition for its airlines and other closely-held business partners, which had made the most significant contribution to the continued enhancement of its aviation development in 2013.



Caption: New victors at this year's 7th Annual Aviation Event, hosted in the historic art deco Terminal 1 Event Center, included Alitalia (fastest growing full service) and Finnair (most punctual), with Qatar Airways, Wizz Air, Norwegian, Turkish Airlines and Cargolux proudly maintaining their winning positions from last year.

Category	2013 Winner
Special Recognition Awards	Macsári István, Airport Police Directorate Head of Aviation Security Unit Secretary of the Airport Security Committee
	Bartha László, Chief Security Officer Chief Counsellor
Most Active Tour Operator	Budavár Tours
Best Ground Handler Award	Celebi Ground Handling Hungary
Best Performing Cargo Airline	Cargolux
Best Performing Integrator	TNT Express
Most Punctual Airline	Finnair
Best Developing Airline - Full Service Carrier	Qatar Airways
Best Developing Airline - Low Cost Carrier	Wizz Air
Fastest Growing Airline - Full Service Carrier	Alitalia
Fastest Growing Airline - Low Cost Carrier	Norwegian
Best Marketing Award	Turkish Airlines

Over 150 business partners including airlines, ground handlers, tour operators, border control and other agencies and enterprises attended the evening.

The winners have their say:

Best Marketing - Turkish Airlines: Levend Arisoy, General Manager Hungary: "We have been at Budapest since 1997 and had constant growth since 2008, growing from five to 21 weekly flights. In marketing you only have one chance to make a good first impression and the airport is one of the best locations for our target audience. In this respect Budapest Airport have been great supporters of our strategy."

Best Developing Airline, low-cost carrier - Wizz Air: Diederik Pen, Chief Operating Officer: "We are very excited by this developmental award, it is very important to us to find new frequencies and markets. Last year we introduced Istanbul, Dubai and Moscow – all part of our 'go east' strategy – so we are particularly happy for the recognition of our efforts in this market."

Best Developing Airline, full-service carrier – Qatar Airways: Grisha Jenkov, Country Manager Central Eastern Europe: "We are very delighted to win this award and would like to thank all our loyal passengers and also Budapest Airport management and friendly staff for all their continued support."

Most Punctual Airline – Finnair: Tomi Romano, Area Manager Ground Operations: "In a job like mine it's rewarding just to be nominated for this award, so to win it leaves us beaming with pride. In this complex industry the punctuality of an airline relies on the airline, the airport and many other partners. And at Budapest we think the Malév Ground Handling Ltd are among the best in the business."

BUD maintains traffic position in 2013

With more than 8.5 million passengers, Budapest Airport maintained a steady position in its annual traffic figures for 2013 with 0.2% growth. On average, over 23,000 passengers passed through the airport each day in 2013, with a daily average of 230 aircraft movements. While aircraft movements recorded a slight decline of 4.3%, the airport's efficiency showed a positive balance with the number of passengers per flight rising by 4.6% (from 97.1 to 101.6). The average load factor of flights arriving in and departing from Budapest was 76.2%.

Low cost carriers increased their market share marginally last year; their 4.5 million passengers amounted to 53% of overall traffic, while the full service carriers accounted for 42% with 3.5 million passengers transported. Charter flights had a 4% share, registering just over 350,000 passengers, with general aviation and miscellaneous flights making up the remaining 1%.

Emphasising the outlook for 2014, Jost Lammers, CEO of Budapest Airport commented: "We are optimistic about the coming year; according to the current forecasts, we can expect traffic to grow by 3-4% in Budapest. We remain committed to developing the airport, which is evidenced by the EUR320 million invested so far." Following the airport's best evaluation from the annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey on passenger satisfaction, Budapest Airport has been propelled into the top ten (out of 71 European airports) in certain categories, leading to Lammers adding: "I am especially proud of the fact that, based on feedback, we are providing a better quality of service every year for passengers flying to and from Budapest."

Further route news for 2014

Budapest Airport continues to add new flights and increase frequencies on existing flights for S14. In addition to the six routes already announced, transavia.com France will become the fourth new airline to be welcomed by the airport this year, linking Budapest with its base at Paris Orly Airport. With the thrice-weekly service starting 15 April, transavia.com France will fill the gap left by easyJet's withdrawal from the Paris Orly connection last year. The carrier, which is jointly owned by Air France and transavia.com, will be the fourth to offer services to Paris from Budapest but the only one to fly to Paris Orly Airport, located south of Paris.

Turkish Airlines has announced a third daily flight to Istanbul from 30 March and as a result it is expected that there will be a 30% passenger increase for the airline from last year. The new schedule is especially favourable for passengers wishing to transfer in Istanbul to flights departing for Asia or the Middle East. Welcoming the news, Kam Jandu, CCO of Budapest Airport commented: "We are delighted to acknowledge that Turkish Airlines, quite rightly named the best airline in Europe 2013, and the Turkish market is developing dynamically, and demand for services to Budapest is increasing continuously."

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
 - 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 Ukraine twice-weekly service to Donetsk, starting 30 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.)

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

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