

PRESS RELEASE

Austria's Commercial Airports Report Passenger Growth of 1.4% in 2016

The AOEV welcomes the reduction of the airline ticket tax as an important contribution towards the international competitiveness of Austria's aviation hubs.

February 2, 2017. More than 27.7 million passengers frequented Austria's commercial airports in the year 2016, comprising a year-on-year increase of 1.4%. This represents a new all-time high in spite of the moderate rise.

Internationally competitive conditions are essential in order to promote growth and strengthen Austria's airport sites in a long-term and sustainable manner. For this reason, Austria's commercial airports expressly welcome the planned reduction of the airline ticket tax as of January 1, 2018.

"In spite of the crisis-related challenges and a difficult market environment, Austria's commercial airports reported an overall good passenger development in the year 2016. This underlines the efficiency of the flight hubs and the important role they play in their respective regions", states **Marco Pernetta**, President of the Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) and Managing Director of Innsbruck Airport.

Julian Jäger, Vice-President of the AOEV and Member of the Management Board of Flughafen Wien AG, adds: "Internationally competitive conditions are required in order to sustainably strengthen Austrian aviation and the flight hubs. For this reason, we welcome the planned reduction of the airline ticket tax presented by the Austrian Federal Government, which is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2018. This is an important step in the right direction, so that the aviation sector will continue to be an important job motor and driver of growth in the future as well."

On balance, all six commercial airports in Austria (Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna) achieved a new record in 2016, handling about 27,709,000 **passengers**, a rise of 1.4% compared to 2015. The number of **flight movements** declined slightly in 2016, with 281,136 starts and landings (1.7% from the previous year). The maximum takeover weight (MTOW) increased by 1.9% to 10,155,603 tonnes. **Cargo volume** at all Austrian commercial airports rose by 2.8% in 2016 to a total of 337,922 tonnes.

The **Austrian Airports Association** (AOEV) was established in 1956 and serves as the interest group for the regional commercial airports in Austria. Its members are the airports in Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna, which cooperate on a management and operational level. The objective of the AOEV is to promote cross-company cooperation among Austria's commercial airports, the regular exchange of know-how on operational processes and to represent their common interests and concerns with respect to national and international decisions impacting the aviation and airport sectors. The Austrian Airports Association is engaged in an

intensive exchange of views with its sister associations in Germany (German Airports Association - ADV) and Switzerland (Swiss International Airports Association - SIAA).

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