

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Austrian Aviation Sector on the Upswing: 31.7 Million Passengers (+9.6%) in 2018 at Austria's Commercial Airports**

#### **Austrian Airports Association Demands Abolishing the Airline Ticket Tax**

**Vienna, February 7, 2019. The year 2018 was a record year for Austria's aviation sector. Austria's commercial airports reported a new all-time high in 2018, handling more than 31.7 million passengers. This comprises an increase of 9.6% from the prior-year level. The complete elimination of the airline ticket tax is essential in order to provide important impetus for future growth, as the Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) demands.**

"About 32 million passengers frequented Austria's commercial airports in 2018. The country's airports play an important role, serving as an economic driver and job creator in the respective region", says Julian Jäger, President of the Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) and Member of the Management Board of Flughafen Wien AG. "Completely abolishing the airline ticket tax is necessary in order to participate in global growth in the aviation sector and sustainably strengthen the regional flight hubs", Mr. Jäger adds.

#### **New record: 31,726,051 passengers at Austria's commercial airports**

On balance, Austria's six commercial airports (Graz, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Vienna) achieved a new record in 2018, handling 31,726,051 passengers, comprising a 9.6% increase from the comparable level of 2017. The number of flight movements was up 5.6% in 2018 to 296,867 starts and landings. Cargo volume (excl. trucking) also developed positively, rising 3.3% from the previous year to 224,719 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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