

PRESS RELEASE

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Austrian Airports Association Criticizes Supreme Administrative Court Decision on the Planned Third Runway at Vienna Airport

The Austrian Airports Association (AOEV) fears substantial disadvantages and negative effects on the Austrian economy and Austria as an aviation location as a consequence of the negative decision handed down by the Supreme Administrative Court on the planned 3rd Runway at Vienna Airport.

“From the point of view of Austria’s commercial airports, the decision on the part of the Supreme Administrative Court to deny approval of the 3rd Runway at Vienna Airport comprises a setback for Austria as an aviation location. This decision means that every capacity expansion, also at Austria’s commercial airports, can be prevented in the future. In any case, this will have negative effects on the future development of Austria as a business and tourism location”, says **Marco Pernetta, President of the Austrian Airports Association and Managing Director of Innsbruck Airport**, commenting on the court decision.

“This decision does not improve the climate footprint, because global and European flight traffic will further grow in the long term. Austria as an aviation location will not participate in this development, because without growth perspectives airlines will focus their flight schedule decisions at airports outside of Austria. This will not remain without consequences for domestic flight hubs”, states Julian Jäger, **Vice President of AOEV and Member of the Management Board of the Vienna Airport operating company Flughafen Wien AG**.

Supreme Administrative Court ruling has negative impacts on Austria as a business location

Austria’s commercial airports comprise an important economic driver and job creator in their respective regions. The decision of the Supreme Administrative Court impedes further growth and creation of new jobs. Climate protection cannot be achieved on the basis of individual projects but by collective measures on a national and international level. Flight traffic in Austria is, for the most part, characterised by flight connections within Europe. In particular, these flights have already been required since 2012 to purchase limited certificates for flights in the European Economic Area within the context of EU emission trading.

In addition, Austria’s commercial airports, particularly Vienna Airport, are implementing numerous measures to enhance energy efficiency and reduce CO₂ emissions. Accordingly, the airports are already making an important contribution to climate protection.

AOEV promotes the cooperation of Austria's commercial airports

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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