

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **A4E: European travellers fleeced by excessive airport charges**

- In the last ten years, charges rose by 90 per cent at the 10 largest European airports while airline fares dropped 20 per cent over the same period.
- New airline association urges EU to act on legislation to effectively regulate monopoly airports.

**At its official launch Airlines for Europe (A4E), Europe's new airline association called for a significant reduction in the excessive airport charges paid by hundreds of millions of EU travellers.**

A new Aviation Economics study shows that airport charges at the largest 21 European airports have increased by 80 per cent since 2005. These airports see half of all European passengers. At the ten largest airports the increase was even greater, close to 90 per cent. These increases mean that passengers have had to pay an extra EUR 5,4 billion in airport charges over the last 10 years. This contrasts with a reduction in average ticket prices of 20 per cent over the same period, according to IATA statistics.

There are significant differences across the EU in the scale of the increase: Spain (+255%), Italy (+141%) and the UK (+120%) show the largest hikes. The highest passengers charges overall are billed in the UK (EUR 44), Switzerland (EUR 38) and Germany (EUR 35). In addition airlines have to collect government taxes which are not included in these charges.

The founders of A4E, the CEOs of Europe's five largest airline groups - Air France KLM, easyJet, International Airlines Group, Lufthansa Group and Ryanair commented: "While the airlines have reduced their fares, EU passengers continue to be fleeced by excessive airport charges. We urge the EU to take action lowering the cost of the EU's airports by ensuring that monopoly airports are effectively regulated by reforming the Airport Charges Directive."

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### About A4E:

Airlines for Europe (A4E) is Europe's new airline association, based in Brussels. Launched in January 2016, the association was established by Europe's five largest airline groups – Air France KLM, easyJet, International Airlines Group, Lufthansa Group, Ryanair – and plans to grow further. With more than 460 million passengers on board, the A4E members account for half of the continent's passenger journeys, operating more than 2,100 airplanes and generating EUR 85 billion in turnover each year.