

5 February 2016

## Budapest Airport recognises partners of distinction following another record-breaking year

Budapest Airport hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony last night in the grandiose Terminal 1 Event Center. Around 300 guests gathered to recognise the success of the airport's closely-held business partners during, not only another record-breaking year in 2015, but also over the past decade. Having smashed the 10 million passenger traffic threshold last year, the evening was a chance to honour and thank airlines, concessionaires, ground handlers and other partners who have played a hugely important role in the enhancement of Budapest's aviation and retail developments.



Photo caption: This year's partners of distinction at Budapest Airport's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony, hosted in the historic Terminal 1 Event Center, including new victors Emirates, British Airways, Air France and Alitalia, with Lufthansa Technik and Wizz Air proudly maintaining their winning status' from last year.

Category	2015 Winner
Best Performing Airline	Wizz Air
Best Developing Airline	Air France
Best New Long-Haul	Emirates
Best Performing Newcomer Cargo and Belly Cargo Airline	Air China (Cargo)
Best Aircraft Maintenance Company	Lufthansa Technik
Best Seasonal Airline	Vueling
Best Network Airline Load Factor	British Airways
Best Airline Marketing Partner	Alitalia
Best Greenairport Partner	Fótaxi Zrt
Retail Concessionaire of the Year	Szamos üzlet (SkyCourt)
Retail Concessionaire of the Year (F&B)	Leroy Air Kft

Having been named Expat CEO of the Year at last month's Budapest Business Journal's Expat CEO Gala, Jost Lammers has been recognised for his own role in bringing the Hungarian gateway to new heights in both traffic numbers and services. Speaking at last night's ceremony, Lammers had a chance to praise those aviation partners who have contributed to the record-breaking success of the airport: "Budapest has been propelled into being one of Europe's fastest growing airports and credit must go to our partners who have excelled over the last year. I am especially proud, and tonight is a wonderful chance for us to say a personal thank you to all those who have played a part in making sure Budapest, and Hungarian aviation, are internationally recognised."

#### A few words from the winners:

**Best New Long-Haul – Emirates.** Gábor Horváth, Country Manager: "We have experienced unprecedented success on our new route between Budapest and Dubai, having already upgraded to our 777-300s on the service following better than expected demand. The relationship between Emirates and Budapest Airport is full of promise, we cherish this award on behalf of Emirates Hungary team and Budapest Airport team, and our close co-operation with the airport."

**Best Performing Airline – Wizz Air.** Diederik Pen, Chief Operations Officer: "We have extremely strong relations with Budapest Airport and take considerable pride that 2015 was another all-time record year for both of us. We are Hungary's home town airline, and we are grateful that the continuous hard work of both teams at Budapest Airport and Wizz Air is recognised in the accolade of Best Performing Airline – receiving this award for the second consecutive year is testimony to all involved in the incredible achievements we have experienced."

**Best Airline Marketing Partner – Alitalia.** Judit Szabó, Sales Representative: "We'd like to thank Budapest for not only giving us this award, but for also offering us the perfect location for our target audience, and for supporting Alitalia in our ongoing marketing strategy."

**Best Network Airline Load Factor – British Airways.** Emil Delibashev, Commercial Manager Eastern Europe: "As a long-standing partner of Budapest, we have experienced the great potential of the local market, as well as the growth of the airport. We're introducing a fourth daily flight that will make our already fantastic schedule perfect. The fact that British Airways has won the award for Best Network Airline Load Factor is yet another indication of our own continued exceptional performance and significant development within Hungary."

#### 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 52.66% stake, together with Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (20.17%), Malton Investment Pte Ltd. (22.17%) and KfW IPEX-Bank GmbH (5%).
- Budapest Airport welcomed 10.3 million passengers in 2015, flying on the airport's services to 95 destinations across 36 countries.
- Monthly passenger traffic growth in the period to end-December 2015 has exceeded +9%.
- Budapest Airport's route development for 2016 include:
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Nice, starting 11 March 2016;
  - Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Karlsruhe/Baden-Baden, starting 11 March 2016;

- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malaga, starting 17 March 2016;
- Ryanair twice-weekly service to Malta, starting 19 March 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Liverpool, starting 27 March 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Baku, starting 27 March 2016;
- Wizz Air twice-weekly service to Reykjavik/Keflavik, starting 27 March 2016;
- Ryanair, weekly service to Gran Canaria, starting 3 April 2016;
- easyJet thrice-weekly service to Lyon, starting 26 April 2016;
- Ryanair, weekly service to Corfu, starting 28 April 2016;
- Air Canada rouge, thrice-weekly service to Toronto, starting 9 June 2016;
- Wizz Air weekly service to Ibiza, starting 18 June 2016;
- Ellinair weekly service to Thessaloniki, starting 19 June 2016;
- Wizz Air four times weekly service to Bucharest, starting 19 September 2016.

**For more information:**

**Kerry Parks, Account Manager, Budapest Airport Aviation Development PR**  
PPS Publications, Media & Events  
(44) 1293 783851/mobile (44) 7808 172723 or [kerry@pps-publications.com](mailto:kerry@pps-publications.com)