



INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

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AIR TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP ESTABLISHED

The IATA Infrastructure Action Group (IAG) held its first meeting in Geneva on July 26. The group was set up by the IATA Executive Committee in May to prepare urgently proposals for tackling the problem of air transport congestion.

The IAG includes representatives of nine airlines: Air France, American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines, Lufthansa, Pan American, Qantas, Royal Air Maroc and Varig. Mr John Meredith serves as Senior Director, of the group. The IAG will work closely with IATA's Technical Department and its Task Force on Airport and Airspace Congestion.

The group has received indications of support from many sources including consumer groups, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, aircraft manufacturers, tour operators and travel agents. It was therefore decided to set up an Air Transport Action Group, based in Geneva. Its key objectives have been agreed and include:

- To promote an increased public awareness of the solutions to congestion problems;
- To provide strong support for restructuring of the European air traffic control system;

- To develop airport support groups to address airport issues on a local basis;
- To encourage a continuous dialogue between environmentalists and aviation experts to seek realistic compromises between environmental concerns and the need for increased capacity.

IATA's Director General, Dr Günter Eser, said: "Limitations in the world aviation infrastructure are causing airlines considerable difficulty in providing efficient standards of service to their customers. Equally, congestion is costing countries and airlines large sums of money and the study on European congestion, which we commissioned last year, graphically showed the economic penalties arising from shortcomings in the air traffic control system and at airports. I welcome the establishment of the Air Transport Action Group, which can coordinate action to solve the very serious congestion problems faced by the public."