



British Air Transport Association

Media Release

6 December 2006

Hike in Air Passenger Duty “Misguided and Punitive”

Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of the British Air Transport Association (BATA), the trade association for UK registered airlines, responding to the doubling of Air Passenger Duty said:

“BATA feels this hike in duty is a misguided and punitive increase driven by party political considerations which will do nothing to improve the environment, while putting the UK aviation industry at a major disadvantage in the global market. We believe that the admission of aviation into the European Emissions Trading Scheme, together with the interim option for passengers to offset their emissions if they wish, is a more sensible and effective approach. Today’s announcement manages to send the wrong signals to air travellers and adds an unnecessary burden to the UK economy.”

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

1) BATA represents UK registered airlines covering the scheduled, charter and freight sectors. Its members account for 85% of UK airline output.

2) For more information contact Neal Weston, Head of Policy and Communications on 020 7222 9494, 07855 736 487 or at weston@bata.uk.com.

3) Gordon Brown has announced that APD will be doubled, which will mean a minimum charge for a short-haul European economy flight of £10. Premium European flights will incur a £40 levy. On non-European destinations, an economy flight will incur an extra cost of £20, with APD on premium travel rising to £80.