



## Media Release

**Embargo: 17.00 hrs  
25 June 2007**

### **BBC pilot fatigue story and pilots' union survey – no cause for safety concerns**

The BBC are broadcasting a news story today (Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007) suggesting a possible safety issue regarding pilot fatigue. They are also reporting claims being made by the pilots' trade union, BALPA, who have published the results of a survey into the same issue.

Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of the British Air Transport Association (BATA) said in reaction to the claims;

"The UK has the most well developed regulations on pilot flying hours of any country in the world. The number of hours a pilot can work are strictly controlled. Airlines have their own scheduling rules and agreements with their pilots which are within the limits set by the regulations. A typical shorthaul pilot does no more than 700 flying hours each year – or 17 hours each working week. None exceed the 900 hour annual limit. They come to work on about 17 days in a 28 day period.

British airlines monitor their operations very carefully, and pilot fatigue is not seen as a safety issue by the airlines or the safety regulator, CAA. The reports, given to the BBC by a small number of pilots provide little detail and do not help our understanding on this issue.

If the pilots really are fatigued they have a legal responsibility to report this and not to operate. We have an open reporting culture in the UK and pilots can report issues or incidents in confidence if they wish to a system run by the safety regulator. Many airlines also have their own confidential reporting systems.”

He continued; “We will carefully study the BALPA survey and results but are disappointed that neither the survey nor its results were shared with the industry or the safety regulator before publication.”

**ENDS**

### **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 and to arrange interviews contact Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General on 07767 660 658 or 020 7222 9494.