



## **Media Release**

**Immediate Use**

**Tuesday 23 March 2010**

### **Budget Warning to Chancellor: “Flight Tax Increases Will Hurt UK Economy and Cost Jobs”**

In advance of tomorrow’s Budget statement, the UK airline industry has warned the Chancellor not to risk damaging the economy and threatening jobs by further increasing taxes on air travel.

Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General of the British Air Transport Association said:

“Any further increases to Air Passenger Duty (APD), the tax imposed by the UK government on air travel, will jeopardise the recovery from recession. APD has already cost 10,000 jobs in the aviation industry alone. Thousands more jobs will be at risk if the tax is increased again. With our fragile economy, any tax on visitors and our trading links is bound to threaten jobs and the UK’s future prosperity.

“After experiencing significant hikes in the rates of APD in 2007 and last November and with another increase already scheduled for November this year, air travel is already more than paying its way, contributing £2 billion a year to the Treasury coffers.”

**ENDS**

## **Contacts**

- For more information contact Roger Wiltshire, Secretary General on 07767 660 658 or Neal Weston, Head of Policy & Communications on 07855 736 487 or 020 7222 9494.

## **Notes to Editors**

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- BATA members employ over 71,000 people, operate two thirds of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and are responsible for some 80% of UK airline output, carrying 86 million passengers and 1 million tonnes of cargo.
- BATA member airlines are: Air Southwest, bmi, British Airways, DHL, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.