



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

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Break Up BAA And Retain Regulation

The trade association for UK airlines, the British Air Transport Association (BATA) has responded to today's recommendation by the Competition Commission, that the BAA monopoly of airports should be ended.

A spokesman for BATA said:

"We welcome the Competition Commission's findings. All three BAA airports in South East England – Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted – should be separately owned by different operators, with continued economic regulation.

A wider number of owners will allow each airport to receive more focused attention and potential for investment and development than at present.

The runway capacity in the South East is the fundamental issue to bear in mind when considering a break up of the BAA monopoly; not the simply number of airports owned. Hiving off Gatwick alone, for example would still leave BAA controlling three of the five runways (60%) in the region instead of the four they own at present (80%). If additional runways get the go-ahead at Stansted and Heathrow, BAA's control could extend to five of seven (72%) runways. That is unacceptable.

Competition will create the environment for better service, greater quality and an enhanced and truly world class airport experience for the travelling public and airlines alike."

ENDS

Contacts

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Notes to Editors

1) BATA

Represents UK-registered airlines and BATA members represent 85% of UK airline output.