



*The Voice of UK Airlines*

## **Media Release**

**Immediate Use  
12 December 2007**

### **BATA Response to Lords Report**

Responding to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee Report 'Air Travel and Health', published today, a spokesman for the British Air Transport Association (BATA) said:

"We very much welcome the Committee's call for a reduction in Air Passenger Duty for 'premium economy' services.

"The UK is the only country with a regulation on minimum seat size and distance between seats on aircraft. It would be up to the safety regulator, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to set new limits for seat dimensions. UK registered airlines would of course meet any new regulation stipulated by EASA, as they currently do with the existing rules.

"If a new regulation reduces the number of seats on an aircraft there would be unavoidable knock-on effects, including increasing the cost of travel and greenhouse gas emissions per passenger. Additionally, airlines may need to operate more flights to meet demand and this would reinforce the need for additional runway capacity at UK airports.

"It is worth noting that the proposal from the Committee, if adopted by the safety regulator, wouldn't affect seat pitch on long haul routes as they already meet or exceed the suggested requirements."

**ENDS**

#### **Contacts**

For more information contact Neal Weston on 07855 736 487 or 020 7222 9494 or Roger Wiltshire on 07767 660 658.

#### **Notes to Editors**

- 1) BATA represents UK-registered airlines and BATA members represent 85% of UK airline output.