



*The Voice of UK Airlines*

## Media Release

Date of Issue: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011  
For Immediate Use

### **“A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR BRITAIN” BATA SLAMS COALITION FOR SUPPRESSING AIR TRAVEL AND TOURISM IN NEW DEMAND FORECAST**

Commenting on today's revised Government forecasts of demand for air travel that show a slashing by 25% of passengers travelling through Britain's airports in twenty years time compared to forecasts produced just two years ago, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association said:

“As an island nation, Britain's future prosperity depends on our connectivity with the rest of the world – especially with the growing economies of Brazil, China and India where we need to compete effectively if we are to win new business and attract tourist income.

The Prime Minister acknowledges that tourism is the UK's third largest export earner and wants to grow our share of world tourism to help Britain recover from economic crisis. But today's revised forecasts issued by the Coalition Government make unrealistic assumptions that many tourists travelling to and from Britain will instead choose to travel by high speed train or, presumably, not to travel at all to destinations such as the Spanish or Greek Islands.

The Coalition's rash decision to ban desperately needed expansion in the form of new runway capacity at London's airports means that, simply to maintain projected growth in inbound long haul tourism, the Government expects British people, especially those who live in the south east, to stop taking holidays overseas. This is completely unacceptable.

Last year, London was the only region of the UK to see visits by overseas residents increase. By restricting demand in the south east, we will not necessarily see business and tourism go elsewhere in the UK. We cannot continue to squeeze a quart into a pint pot and the new aviation demand forecasts clearly show business travellers and tourists will be deflected away from the UK. BATA estimates that the reduction in growth shown in the revised forecasts will cost the UK economy at least £10 billion over the next twenty years.

With our economy flat on its back at the moment, we need a reduction in revenue to the UK of that magnitude as much as a hole in the head.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

- BATA is the trade body for UK-registered airlines, with members representing all sectors of the industry.
- In 2010, BATA members employed over 71,000 people, operated four-fifths of the UK commercial aircraft fleet and were responsible for some 96% of UK airline output, carrying 119 million passengers and 1 million tonnes of cargo.
- The eleven BATA member airlines are: Air Southwest, bmi, British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- The documents published by the Department for Transport today (25<sup>th</sup> August 2011) are: *'UK Aviation Forecasts 2011'* and supporting papers – available at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/uk-aviation-forecasts-2011>  
*'Government response to the Committee on Climate Change report on reducing CO2 emissions from UK aviation to 2050'* and supporting paper –available at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/publications/reducing-co2-emissions>

### **BATA Contacts**

BATA Office: 0207 222 9494/Simon Buck: 07584 016 925/Neal Weston: 07855 736 487