



*The Voice of UK Airlines*

## **Media Release**

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For Immediate Use**

### **BATA DENOUNCES SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENT AVIATION “STOP/GO” POLICIES AS CRIPPLING BRITAIN’S TRADE LINKS WITH THE WORLD**

To coincide with the closure of the Government’s initial ‘Scoping Document’ consultation on a ‘Sustainable Policy Framework for Aviation’, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association said:

“Well into the Coalition’s term of government, we are only at the first stage of having any sort of aviation policy for Britain.

At a time when the UK is suffering arguably its worse ever economic recession and the highest levels of unemployment in seventeen years, we can ill afford continued indecision from Government on permitting private investment for the future of the public good.

We need firm action to rebalance the economy. By refusing permission to airports to construct new infrastructure where new capacity is urgently needed, the Government is putting at risk Britain’s ability to win business with new emerging world economies because we do not have the air services with them that we so desperately need.

Approval of privately funded airport expansion would represent excellent value for UK plc especially where approval has already been given by the previous government following a long period of consultation where all the evidence for and against was fully considered. At a time of economic crisis, it’s decisions we need, not further consultation. Successive Governments have been consulting on the future of aviation and new runway capacity for decades. Instead we need a Government able to grasp the nettle and take a bold decision if we are not to damage permanently our economic prospects. I urge the new Secretary of State to recognise that further procrastination will cost Britain dearly in terms of lost business and jobs.”

**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 ten BATA member airlines are: bmi, British Airways, DHL, easyJet, flybe, Jet2.com, Monarch, Thomas Cook, Thomson Airways and Virgin Atlantic.
- The DfT Consultation, 'Developing a Sustainable Framework for UK Aviation: Scoping Document' was published on 30<sup>th</sup> March and closes on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011. Containing 49 questions, it can be found at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/dft-2011-09>
- The BATA response to the Consultation can be found at:  
<http://www.bata.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/BATA-Response-DfT-Scoping-Document-201011.pdf>

## **BATA Contacts**

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