



The Voice of UK Airlines

Media Release

Date of Issue: 7th September 2011
For Immediate Use

HIGH TAX RATES DAMAGE UK ECONOMY

Commenting on today's letter to the Financial Times from 20 leading economists arguing that the high 50p tax rate is damaging the UK economy, Simon Buck, CEO of BATA said:

"Whether you agree with the high taxes on income or not, the same arguments hold true for the exorbitantly high tax that the UK imposes on flying – the tax is making the *UK 'less competitive internationally, and making us less attractive as a destination for both foreign investment and talented workers'*. Britain imposes the highest taxes on flying in the world (see <http://www.handsoffourholiday.com/>) and more than 8.5 times the average of the rest of Europe. These taxes damage our international tourism industry that is the UK's third highest export earner and makes the annual sunshine holiday less affordable for Britain's hard pressed families."

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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.

BATA Contacts

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