



The Voice of UK Airlines

## Media Release

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### **'CONNECTING FOR GROWTH' REPORT ON IMPORTANCE OF THE HUB AIRPORT IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Commenting on the publication today of *'Connecting for Growth'*, a report prepared for Heathrow by Frontier Economics, on the role of Britain's hub airport in economic recovery, Simon Buck, Chief Executive of the British Air Transport Association said:

"This report clearly shows that the Coalition Government's policy of constraining growth at the UK's only hub airport puts at risk Britain's ability to trade with emerging world economies and seriously impacts on Government ambitions for an export led recovery. Such constraint costs the UK economy over £1 billion per year and puts many thousands of UK jobs at risk. Ministers need to wake-up from their obsession with planning hugely expensive, publicly funded national railway schemes and recognise the urgent need to permit privately funded investment at our overcrowded London airports in order for the UK to compete for business with the rest of the world. The need for Britain to develop and maintain international trade links with the rest of the world is far more important than any short term electoral advantage that may be gained by 'here-today-gone-tomorrow' politicians from the banning of new runways."

**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 Frontier Economics report can be downloaded at: <http://hub.heathrowairport.com/> and further information can be found at: <http://www.heathrowairport.com/>

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