



*The Voice of UK Airlines*

## **Published Letter**

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### **The Times - Heathrow's Rivals Paris and Frankfurt already have 1,000 more annual flights to the three largest cities in China than Heathrow**

Sir, John Stewart (letter, Oct 5) is only half right in claiming that Heathrow has twice as many flights to existing key global business destinations. However, the UK's only hub airport compares poorly with our continental rivals in total number of routes to the emerging world economies such as China.

There are 21 emerging market destinations with daily flights from other European hub airports that are not served from Heathrow. Paris and Frankfurt already have 1,000 more annual flights to the three largest cities in China than Heathrow.

Worse still, Heathrow is losing routes because of capacity constraints and now serves only about 180 destinations compared with more than 220 in the 1990s. All this loss has been picked up by our competitors at Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam.

If we are to rebalance the UK economy, we should not forgo the £1.2 billion per year that our lack of direct flights to emerging markets costs.

Simon J. L. Buck  
Chief Executive, British Air Transport Association

**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/>

#### **BATA Contacts**

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