

Sajtóközlemény / Press release

Budapest Airport sets another record, as traffic exceeds 12 million

Budapest, 4 December 2017. Traffic at Budapest Airport has broken another record, as the number of arriving and departing passengers exceeded 12 million by the end of November. Thanks to the dynamic growth, more than one million passengers used the terminals of Budapest Airport in November, for the first time ever.

The earlier traffic growth in excess of 14 percent continued, as Budapest Airport registered 1,025,501 passengers during the month of November. This is the first time in the history of the Hungarian capital airport that traffic exceeded 1 million in November. Since the Christmas and the year-end period is always very busy, it is highly likely that traffic will approach or even exceed 13 million this year, setting another amazing record after the 11.4 million result in 2016.

The dynamic traffic growth is showing no signs of slowing down during the winter. Forecasts indicate that a natural dip usually occurs in traffic every year during January and February, which is likely to be the case in 2018 as well, but traffic performance in Budapest has become steadier and more balanced over the past years. This is partly explained by the fact that the 2017/18 winter schedule contained no fewer than 14 new flights and frequency increases, including, amongst others, new services to sunny, seaside destinations or nearby cities in places like the Canary Islands and Morocco. Both Wizz Air and Ryanair are offering new flights to these places, at affordable prices. Also, Iberia is returning to Budapest from December, with a flight to Madrid during the winter.

“We are very proud of the traffic growth, which is not only to the merit of Budapest Airport, but also of the Hungarian economy and tourism. Budapest remains attractive for tourists and business travelers alike,” commented Jost Lammers, the CEO of Budapest Airport. He added: “There are fewer and fewer white spots in Europe, i.e. places where there are no direct flights to Budapest. In addition to the transatlantic flights starting next summer, we are focusing on another connection to the Far East, trying to attract Asian carriers to the Hungarian capital, as these markets are becoming increasingly important for us.”

It is especially important that the traffic growth has not increased the burdens for residents living in the vicinity of the airport, as the number of landings and takeoffs is growing at a much slower rate than passenger numbers since the grounding of the base airline five years ago and a significant reduction in the number aircraft movements. In practice, this means that airlines are trying to increase the utilization of their aircraft, or use larger ones on routes to and from Budapest. By way of comparison, whilst there were 126 000 landings and takeoffs ten years ago, the number of aircraft movements is expected to reach 100 000 again for the first time this year, following a large dip of many years. Moreover, more and more airlines are now using quieter and cleaner modern aircraft.

To keep pace with the rapid growth in traffic, two years ago Budapest Airport launched a five-year development plan called BUD 2020 (worth approximately 160 million EUR, or 50 billion HUF), as part of which it renovated runway I and installed a new, state-of-the-art instrument landing system (ILS), with an airport hotel due to open soon and a passenger pier of more than 10,000 square meters to be completed next year, for non-Schengen flights at Terminal 2B.

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Notes to editors

Budapest Airport is the best airport in Eastern Europe, as recognized by Skytrax in 4 consecutive years, from 2014 to 2017, based on passenger ratings. Budapest Airport Ltd., the operator of Budapest Ferenc Liszt International Airport, is owned by a consortium of Canadian (Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, 21.228 %) and Singaporean (Malton Investment Pte Ltd., 23.334 %) investors led by AviAlliance GmbH (55.438 %). The terminals of the airport are home to 45 airlines, which transported 11.4 million passengers to 111 airports in 36 countries in 2016 (11.1 % growth rate in 2016 vs. 2015). Budapest Airport handled 112,143 tons of cargo in 2016 (22.7 % growth rate vs. 2015).