ACI EUROPE calls for "integrated approach" between airports and Air Traffic Management

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Brussels, 27 February 2020: ACI EUROPE's Director General, Olivier Jankovec, today opened EUROCONTROL's Digitally Connected Airports conference by calling for a closer cooperation and effective operational integration between airports and Air Traffic Management (ATM) to boost performance and improve sustainability.

Speaking at the event, at which ACI EUROPE is supporting partner, Jankovec outlined the imperative for all players in the aviation ecosystem and for Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) in particular to pull together in managing & developing infrastructure capacity in the air and on the ground[1].

"In Europe, airports went through a major business transformation as Governments have stepped back in favour of corporatisation and privatisation. That transformation has clearly led airports to focus on operational efficiency and quality. This is as much about putting the passenger at the forefront of everything we do as making the most of our facilities. However, our efforts to achieve more efficiencies require ANSPs to work with airports in a more integrated manner. This means breaking existing operational silos – and finally getting ANSPs to get involved in and support Airports' Operational Centres."

Airport Operational Centres (APOCs) are local collaborative operational platforms designed to bring together the airport operator, the local ANSP, airlines, ground handlers, police and customs. By facilitating a constant sharing of information, APOCs ensure a better (more integrated) use of both available airport & airspace capacity - which in turn allows the minimisation of flight delays and cancellations. While ANSPs' involvement is clearly crucial, they have yet to join APOCs at major European airports - with the exception of London-Heathrow, where NATS is participating. ACI EUROPE considers that the establishment of formal contractual relationships between airports and ANSPs would help achieve that.

Jankovec concluded by stressing how these issues become even more relevant in the face of the Climate Emergency and airports' drive to become more sustainable[2]: *"By adding even more pressure on the need for more operational efficiency, the Climate Emergency makes the case for airport & ATM integration a no-brainer. But beyond that, the EU's climate objectives require an ambitious structural ATM reform that can achieve real de-fragmentation."*

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[1] This follows and complements the comprehensive positioning of ACI EUROPE on airport capacity released in November 2019 – link

[2] View the ACI EUROPE's *Sustainability Strategy for Airports* here
 View the ACI EUROPE *Resolution on Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050* here

*ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over **500 airports** in 45 European countries. Our members facilitate over 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe: **2.3 billion passengers**, **21.2 million tonnes of freight** and **25.7 million aircraft movements** in 2018. In response to the Climate Emergency, in June 2019 our members committed to achieve **Net Zero** carbon emissions for operations under their control **by 2050**, without offsetting.*

EVERY FLIGHT BEGINS AT THE AIRPORT.