



COMMISSION FOR AVIATION REGULATION ANNOUNCES DECISION TO DESIGNATE DUBLIN AIRPORT AS A COORDINATED AIRPORT

The Commissioner for Aviation Regulation, Mr. Bill Prasifka, today (26th April 2005) announced the decision to designate Dublin Airport as a "Coordinated" airport.

Terminology

The term, "Coordination" refers to the manner in which slots are agreed and scheduled in community airports. Airports can be either "Schedules Facilitated " or "Coordinated". Schedule facilitated airports are those where the slots for landing and departure are agreed between the user airlines on a voluntary basis, facilitated by an independent coordinator. Coordinated airports are those where slots are allocated by a coordinator, and an airline may not operate unless in possession of a slot.

Background

In September 2002, the Dublin Airport Authority (then Aer Rianta) requested that Dublin Airport, which was then schedules facilitated, be coordinated. The Commission undertook a review of the designation status of the airport and concluded in May 2003 that coordination was not required at that time. However it undertook to review the status early in 2004.

As part of that review, a firm called Alan Stratford and Associates carried out a full capacity analysis on behalf of the Commission. Again it was decided in October 2004 that there were no grounds at that time to change the designated status of the airport. However, it was agreed that two key factors existed, which, if altered significantly would create grounds for changing the status at the Airport.

According to the capacity analysis, those factors are (1) an increase in transatlantic flights from Dublin, following the potential relaxation of the Shannon stopover and (2) a significant increase in the number of refusals by airlines to adjust their allocated slot times when requested to do so by the facilitator.

Decision

Information supplied to the Commission clearly indicates that the level of refusals in the proposed Summer 05 schedules has increased by over 100%, against the level of refusals in Summer 2004.



Consequently, the Commission has decided to designate Dublin Airport as a coordinated airport, with effect from the commencement of the scheduling season for the Summer of 2006.

The full text of the Commission's decision can be accessed on www.aviationreg.ie.

Ends

Issued on behalf of the Commission for Aviation Regulation by
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