

Press release

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POLISH AIRLINES



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

LOT Polish Airlines to join the Aviation Global Deal climate policy group

Warsaw, 18 September 2009 – LOT is joining the Aviation Global Deal (AGD) Group that was set up in February to develop a global policy for tackling aviation emissions. Like every other AGD member airline, LOT agrees that unilateral emissions schemes are not the answer to reducing the industry's emissions and a solution must be global.

LOT Polish Airlines will be the first AGD member from Star Alliance. The other members are: Air France - KLM, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Virgin Atlantic, Virgin Blue Airlines Group, Qatar Airways, airport operator BAA and international NGO The Climate Group.

The basic mechanism proposed by the group is a global sectoral agreement covering carbon dioxide emissions from all air transport providers that can be part of a post-Kyoto deal to be negotiated in Copenhagen in December. Net emissions reductions will be achieved, it maintains, by setting a global emissions reduction target for the sector and allocating allowances to airlines, which can be topped up, if necessary, through the purchase of carbon credits. The group advocates an international body be set up to administer the system.

The AGD Group's proposal is intended to support the work of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) – which also seeks a global solution on the issue – and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the UN agency which has been tasked with finding appropriate solutions to tackling aviation emissions.

Commenting on its decision to join the AGD Group, LOT's CEO, Sebastian Mikosz, said:

"We are fully committed to the work and the goal of the AGD Group. I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that our carbon footprint remains as low as possible. I do think that the only way to actually achieve emissions reductions in aviation is to create a truly global solution for the whole industry. Any deal covering only certain airlines or certain geographical areas can distort competition and won't really help to reduce emissions in the future."

Damian Ryan, Policy Analyst, The Climate Group said: "We are delighted LOT is supporting the important work of the AGD Group and that momentum is now building across the sector for international aviation emissions to be included in a new global climate agreement which will be negotiated at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen in around 80 days time."

LOT is one of the oldest airlines in the world. It has been connecting Poland with the rest of the world for 80 years. Now planes in LOT livery fly to over 50 destinations in Europe, Middle East and North America. In 2008 LOT Group has carried almost 4 million passengers. LOT will become the first European airline to take delivery of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. Among LOT's pilots there are many European and World Champions in all kinds of aviation sports. Since 2003 LOT is a member of Star Alliance whose network offers more than 17 000 flights every day to 916 airports in 160 countries all over the world.

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