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FLASH UPDATE 21 JANUARY 2026

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Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

“Learn from the past to benefit for the future”

The Netherlands, the airlines, Schiphol and, above all, our customers experienced a very difficult start this January. Thousands of flights were cancelled or delayed during the first week of the year, resulting in a massive number of disrupted passengers and cargo shipments. As already noted in an earlier Flash Update, Schiphol and snow are not a good combination. That observation however, cannot serve as an excuse, even if it may partially explain the situation. Clearly, there are important lessons to be learned.

It is understandable that the media seize moments like these. Many quickly form their own judgments and conclusions. In such circumstances, proactive and immediate reactive communication is essential —not least to prevent speculation and the

emergence of incorrect narratives. Questions were raised about the de-icing process itself: was de-icing performed at the gate or at dedicated remote positions? How is this organised at other international airports? Was there sufficient availability of de-icing liquid?

What is now required is an in-depth evaluation involving all stakeholders, including a thorough identification of areas for improvement and a concrete action plan. I am therefore pleased to learn that such an evaluation will be conducted by an independent third party with extensive experience in handling incidents of this nature.

Let us truly learn from the past—to benefit for the future.

Take care,

Marnix H Fruitema,
Chairman



Sustainable Aviation Table calls for Government support to upscale SAF

In a position paper by the Duurzame Luchtvaarttafel (*Sustainable Aviation Table*), the Chair Lodewijk Asscher calls on the political parties D66, CDA and VVD -who are currently undertaking the coalition talks- to support the production and usage of Sustainable Aviation Fuels.

A plea for reinvesting a part of the proceeds of the aviation taxes in the production of these fuels is strong and realistic. At the same time there must also be a strong focus on securing the level playing field of international aviation and the sustainability ambitions must be on a European level rather than on a national level. Prevent a disturbed level playing with non-EU airlines by introducing a SAF-Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Please [click here](#) to download the position paper.



Less usage of second runway due to RECAT-TBS

Through innovation in the air traffic control system RECAT-TBS which was implemented in January 2023, the landing capacity during strong winds has been improved, resulting in an improved usage of noise preferential runways. Using a second landing runway at Schiphol is therefore less frequent and also shorter of time. This has led to more quiet moments for people living underneath the approach routes for the second runway.

To download the evaluation of the “Minder Hinder Schiphol” (Less Hindrance Schiphol) program, please [click here](#).



Schiphol connects The Netherlands with 301 destinations; 68,8 million travellers in 2025

The Netherlands is connected with 301 destinations, of which 125 are intercontinental. According to the ACI Airport Industry Connectivity Report 2025, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol was the second best connected airport in Europe. A total of 68,8 million passengers travelled through Schiphol in 2025, an increase of 2,9% compared to 2024. In 2025 1,43 tonnes of cargo were handled through Schiphol, a drop of 4% compared to previous year.

Please [click here](#) to download the press-release by Schiphol.



Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force F-35s train at Schiphol

On Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 January, the Royal Netherlands Air and Space Force will be conducting training with four F-35 fighter jets and a transport aircraft at Schiphol. During this training, the air force will practice how military flight operations can be carried out safely and responsibly from a civil airport. To read more, please [click here](#).

Interesting to read

Interesting to read

- Please [click here](#) to download the Up in the Sky publication 'De-icen: verleerd of nooit gekend?'
- Please [click here](#) to download the De Volkskrant article 'Asscher moet één van de neteligste kwesties oplossen; Verduurzaming van de luchtvaart'
- Please [click here](#) to download the Up in the Sky publication 'Nachtsluiting Schiphol heeft vergaande gevolgen'



IATA updates

- Please [click here](#) to read the IATA publication '5,7% Air Passenger Demand Growth in November 2025'
- Please [click here](#) to read the IATA publication 'Air Cargo Demand Maintains Strong Momentum, up 5,5% in November 2025'
- Please [click here](#) to read the IATA LinkedIn post 'Get to Know an Air Traffic Controller and Aviation Leader'

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About BARIN

BARIN is the industry association representing the interests of airlines in The Netherlands.

BARIN Member Airlines are represented by the most senior executives representing their companies in The Netherlands in the case of foreign based airlines, and hold senior executive management positions in the case of the Dutch-home-based airlines.

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