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FLASH UPDATE 7 JANUARY 2026

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Dear BARIN Web,

A hectic start to the year for our industry. Snow and Schiphol are not a good combination, resulting in many airlines cancelling hundreds of flights.

At the same time, parts of the Caribbean airspace were closed for several days.

Let us hope that 2026 will bring more stability; operational and political stability, but also realism and objectivity in the way our industry is viewed at and regulated.

"The air ocean unites all people." This could not be more true in the hectic world we live in today.

Passenger traffic in 2025 broadly returned to, or slightly exceeded, pre-COVID levels worldwide. In the Netherlands, however, the debate on capacity caps and noise continued, while costs increased beyond reason.

This led many airlines to restrict or even reallocate

their capacity.

Cargo trends at Schiphol were even less positive. Some months showed growth, while others reported declining cargo volumes.

All in all, it remains a fragile environment. That is precisely why we need perspective and a long-term vision, built on a strong aviation industry as an important pillar of our investment climate.

Looking ahead to 2026, passenger and cargo traffic is expected to continue growing, while airlines will keep investing in new aircraft with lower noise and emission levels.

We therefore call on the government to recognise Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) as a strategic priority and to actively stimulate both production and demand.

The Netherlands can, and should become a frontrunner in sustainable aviation!

That's my wish for 2026!

Enjoy the year to come,

Marnix H Fruitema,
Chairman



Ministry of Infrastructure & Watermanagement starts formal procedure for new Airport Traffic Decree

With a letter dated 19th December 2025, the Minister of Infrastructure & Watermanagement, Mr. Robert Tieman announced the formal start ('voorhang') to come to legislation on a new Airport Traffic Decree (LVB). In this LVB rules and regulations for -amongst others- airport capacity in relation to noise reduction will be addressed. The aim to come to a phased reduction of aircraft noise by 20% as per the Balanced Approach procedure will result in a gradual return to 500.000 air traffic movements at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.

Please [click here](#) to download the letter of the Minister.



No decision taken yet on the opening of Lelystad Airport for commercial traffic

In the last Cabinet meeting prior to the Christmas break on Friday 19th December, the Dutch Cabinet did take a decision on stationing the F-35 fighter jets at Lelystad Airport but no decision was taken to also open the airport for commercial passenger traffic. This decision will be left up to the new Cabinet for which now talks are in progress. The Provincial Government of Flevoland has always made the stationing of fighter jets depending on also allowing commercial aviation in order to create more jobs.



Kenya Airways to re-join the BARIN-ranks

Kenya Airways who cancelled her BARIN membership during the COVID pandemic has now decided to re-join BARIN as per 01 January 2026. In our next issue of the Flash Update we will further introduce Kenya Airways and the team in The Netherlands.

Welcome back Kenya Airways!



Cargo volume at Maastricht Aachen Airport rises with 25% in November

As reported already by ACN, cargo volumes at Maastricht Aachen Airport (MAA) in November rose by 25% in one month compared to the same month in the previous year. Looking at the total volume of cargo in 2025 up until November vs. 2024, the increase in tonnes is even more significant. From 26.683 tonnes to 37.059 tonnes; an increase almost

40%!

You can [click here](#) to download the press-release of MAA.

Interesting to read

Interesting to read

- Please [click here](#) to download the McKinsey publication 'Can the aviation industry soar to new heights, or will headwinds slow its progress?'
- Please [click here](#) to download the AviationA2Z article 'London Heathrow plans to invest GBP 1.3 Billion investment across terminals in 2026'



IATA updates

- Please [click here](#) to read the IATA publication 'SAF Production Growth Rate is Slowing Down, Essential to Correct Course Ahead of e-SAF Mandates'

BARIN Preferred Partners



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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