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FLASH UPDATE

Date: 21 October 2026

Edition 18/2026



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

Rising fuel prices, the cost of ETS and SAF, our government's taxation, geopolitical tensions, airspace disruptions and longer flight routes, together with inflation, are putting enormous pressure on our industry. IATA expects these pressures to have a severe impact on airline profitability. Although global airline revenues are projected to increase by more than 9% in 2026 (demand is there!), supported by higher yields, net profit margins are expected to fall to barely 2% — the weakest result since the COVID years.

Against this backdrop, BARIN has asked Schiphol to take a fresh look at its airport charges. You may remember that charges

not long ago increased by no less than 41%. The subsequent 10% discount was therefore both appreciated and very welcome. But even after that reduction, Schiphol remains the most expensive airport in the European Union. That is why we have asked Schiphol for another gesture for the year ahead.

This is not about asking for special treatment. It is about recognising the exceptionally difficult economic environment in which airlines are operating — and ensuring that Schiphol remains competitive, attractive and able to support the connectivity and economic strength of the Netherlands.

Take care,

Marnix H Fruitema,
Chairman



Tweede Kamer
DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Dutch Government agrees on lowering increased long-haul aviation tax

During the budget meetings last week in the House of Representatives, a majority vote on lowering the proposed increase for long-haul flights above 5.500 km (from the current € 31,04 to € 74,81) to eventually **€ 59,43** was reached. Just to make sure, this is still an increase from the current tax of more than 90%! And still much higher than the countries surrounding The Netherlands, resulting in a potential increase of Dutch travellers starting their journey from a foreign airport, like Dusseldorf or Brussels. For a comparison between European countries, please [click here](#).

The increase of medium-haul flights (2.000-5.500 km) from € 31,04 to € 49,87 is still in the plans.

Director of Airport Coordination Netherlands Hugo Thomassen to step down

Hugo Thomassen, current Director of Airport Coordination Netherlands (ACNL) has announced to step down at the end of this year to start a new challenge as Director of Railcenter as



per 2027. When stepping down Hugo has served ACNL for the last seven years. To read more, please [click here](#).



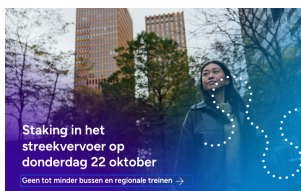
Again long waiting lines at Schiphol due to Border Control IT-disruption

Extreme and unacceptable waiting lines at border control at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol occurred on Sunday 18th October. An IT-malfunction in the Self Service Passport Control (SSPC) was the root of a forced manual border control process. The result of this was that tens of thousands of passengers in this very busy weekend during the Autumn school-break were queuing up for more than an hour at border control, with an estimated thousands of passengers having missed their flight. To read more, please [click here](#).

WorldACD Weekly World Air Cargo Trends 2026



Worldwide air cargo tonnages bounced back strongly in September following their August lull, with volumes rising +3% compared with the previous month and growing +9%, year on year (YoY), according to the latest figures from WorldACD Market Data. To read more, please [click here](#).



Again public transport strikes announced for 22 October

Following the regional public transport strike on 14 October 2026, another regional 24-hour public transport strike will take place on Thursday 22nd October until 04:00 am on Friday 23rd October. To read more, please [click here](#).

Interesting to Read



- Please [click here](#) to download the Up in the Sky article “Duizenden passagiers missen vlucht op Schiphol”
- Please [click here](#) to watch McKinsey & Co video “LATAM’s reinvention at 35.000 feet”
- Please [click here](#) to download the Condé Nast Traveller article “UK Airports are testing passport-free eGates”

IATA Updates

- Please [click here](#) to read the IATA LinkedIn publication “Driving the next advance in safety”



BARIN Preferred Partners



About BARIN

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

BARIN Member Airlines are represented by

Contact information

BARIN Secretariat c/o LJ COMPANY
Léon Jansen

Executive Office

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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