

Invitation to Expert Conference: „The Future of Regional Airports, CEE“, on Friday, 18 November 2005 in Ostrava, Czech Republic

Salzburg (OTS) – On 18 November 2005, the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE) held an expert conference on the topic of the future of regional airports in Central, Eastern and South-East Europe in the Czech Region called Moravian-Silesian. The new guidelines on financing airports and granting governmental subsidies for airlines at regional airports were the starting point of this conference. Around 70 participants from over 12 European countries were invited to come to Ostrava, Czech Republic, on 17 and 18 November. The President of Moravian-Silesian, Evzen Tosenovsky, is planning to extensively enlarge the regional airport in Moravian Ostrava over the next years.

On Friday, three topics will be discussed with representatives from the fields of politics, administration, European institutions, transport, regional airports, law, real estate and aviation experts:

- I. Current Issues of Regional Airports,
- II. Newest Developments in Europe,
- III. Problems of Regional Airports and Solutions.

The opening speech will be held by the Director of the Institute of the Regions of Europe, Franz Schausberger. Mr. Gerhard Stadler, Eurocontrol, will be lecture on regional aviation in Europe and its capacities. The commentator of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Gordon Keymer, will lecture on the new guidelines and their impact on the Regions in Europe. Herbert Zulinski, BMVIT, will present an Austrian opinion on the new guidelines. In addition, Petr Knobloch, member of the Czech Ministry of Transport, will explain the impact of regional airports in the Czech Republic, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Mr. Jirí Kubínek. The Director of the Dubrovnik airport, Mr. Tonci Peovic, IAAE, will give an overview on the situation of regional airports on the Balkan. The issue of the tendency to privatise airports will be elucidated to the attending experts by Mr. Roman Himmler, MBA of the Vienna airport. Mr. Wolfgang Freund, LL.M., partner at DLA Weiss-Tessbach Rechtsanwälte GmbH, will speak about the legal aspects of the special status of regional airports.

The conference, which was organised in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission, will end on Friday, around 4.30 p.m. This up-to-date European expert conference is supported by: BMVIT, BMVIT, Flughafen Wien AG, Immorent AG, Alpine Mayreder, DLA Weiss-Tessbach and Raiffeisen Investment AG.

You will find the complete program with all speakers of this expert conference online at the new website of the Institute of the Region in Europe (IRE): www.ire.or.at

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