

**Speakers at next month's European Aviation Conference  
in Athens, Greece will discuss the present situation regarding ownership  
in the airport, airline and air traffic control sectors.**

Aviation experts meet on **8-9 November** at the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Greece to discuss the merits and shortcomings of the current arrangements governing the ownership of airlines as well as of such crucial infrastructure as airports and ATC facilities.

One panel chaired by **Barry Humphreys** and including **Volodymyr Bilotkach** (Newcastle University), **Daniel Boeshertz** (EC Directorate General COMPETITION), **Kostas Iatrou** (Hermes Report Committee), and **Jeff Shane** (General Council, IATA), will address the issue of airline ownership.

Barry Humphreys comments:

“The restrictions on the ownership and control of airlines continue to limit the 'normalisation' of the industry. Rather than continuing the slow progress in removing these rules seen in recent years, there is growing pressure towards further protectionism, despite the fact that increased cross-ownership of airlines by investment funds makes the identification of the real nationality of owners more difficult to identify. A high level panel will debate all these issues in detail.”

A subsequent session will revisit the question of airport regulation, what lessons the record offers, and the best course for the future. Chaired by **Professor Peter Forsyth** (Monash University), the panel includes **Harry Bush** (former Director of Economic Regulation at the UK CAA), **Warren Mundy** (previously at the Australian Productivity Commission) and **James Wiltshire** (IATA). In the words of Mike Tretheway of InterVISTAS Consulting in Vancouver, and co-chair of the Conference:

“A key policy issue facing governments, airlines, passengers and airports is whether to revisit regulation of privatized airports. Around the world, airlines are citing selected figures that airport charges have risen faster than inflation while air fares have fallen. Airports counter that higher charges have enabled long overdue capital expenditures to increase airport capacity and improve customer service. Airlines ask whether capex has been excessive and overly focused on commercial services. Should governments return to more heavy handed regulatory forms that monitor and judge airport investments and then set charges? Would this actually produce a net benefit to the travelling public?”

Guest speakers in other sessions include aviation executives, researchers and industry consultants:

- Brian Pearce, IATA
- Professor Dimitrios Dimitriou, University of Thrace; Athens Airport
- Michael Stanton-Geddes, Airport Council International Head of Economics
- Anne Graham, University of Westminster
- Professor Andreas Papatheodorou, University of the Aegean
- Dan Elliot, Frontier Economics, and
- Jagoda Egeland, OECD
- Vitan Todorov, BULATSA.

**The 2018 Theme: Ownership in the Airport, Airline and Air Traffic Control sectors.**

Other conference sessions will consider specifically:

- *Connectivity: should there be government support and of what kind?*
- *New technology: what are the implications for reform of air traffic control?*
- *Aviation and the challenges facing regions dependent on tourism.*

**Booking your Place**

The 2017 conference sold out. You may book a place now as well as find further information about presenters and the venue at the conference website:

[www.eac-conference.com](http://www.eac-conference.com)

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