

newsletter


RIG RIGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

K. Peters elected to the Board of ACI Europe

At the 19th ACI Europe General Assembly the delegates elected **Krišjānis Peters, Chairman of the Board of RIGA International Airport, to the Board of ACI Europe.**

„From now on Latvia will be able to participate in top-level decisions on the development targets of the aviation industry in Europe. Our representation on the Board of ACI Europe shows that the successful development of RIGA International Airport has received recognition and it will help us strengthen our position in the European aviation market. I wish to extend my gratitude to the personnel of the airport who have worked hard to achieve this result and receive this tribute,” said Krišjānis Peters, Chairman of the Board of RIGA International Airport.

ACI (*Airports Council International*) is the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI represents more than 1530 airports in 175 countries organised into five geographical regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, and North America. *ACI Europe* unites more than 440 airports in 45 European countries. Member airports of *ACI Europe* handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe welcoming over nearly 1.5 billion passengers each year.

There are 20 -24 members on the Regional Board of ACI Europe. Ten of them are elected by the ACI Europe General Assembly from five sub-regions of Europe: Southern, Eastern, Central, Western and Northern. Latvia, together with Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and the Russian Federation, belongs to the Central Sub-region of ACI Europe.

RIX receives the Routes Europe Airport Marketing Award

In the evening of 18 May Riga International Airport received the prestigious Airport Marketing Award granted by Routes and OAG (Official Airline Guide) as the best airport in Scandinavia and the Baltics leaving behind the airports of Copenhagen and Stockholm.

„Routes Marketing Awards are internationally accredited and deemed to be the most prestigious in the industry. This is because they are the only award based purely on rewarding excellence in route development and nominated only by airlines,” says the Routes Development Group.



Italian airline Windjet starts operations

From 10 June, the Italian budget airline *Windjet* has started flights from Riga to Forlì – the North Italian town in the province of Emilia - Romagna. The carrier will fly between Riga and Forlì once a week on Wednesdays. The duration of the flight is two hours and 35 minutes.

Currently *Windjet* occupies the 4th place among the Italian carriers in terms of passenger traffic. With two Airbus 319 aircrafts and ten Airbus 320 aircrafts *Windjet* in 2008 carried 2.7 million passengers and in 2007 - 2.5 million passengers.



Riga still more accessible!

- Latvian national carrier airBaltic has commenced flights to the following new destinations in Scandinavia, the Baltics, CIS and Western Europe:
 - Tromsø** (from 31 March)
 - Palanga** (from 1 April)
 - Linköping** (from 30 April)
 - Dushanbe** (from 1 June)
 - Kaunas** (from 4 June)
 - Geneva** (from 1 July)
 - Tartu** (from 3 July)
 - Turku** (from 9 July)

- The Italian budget airline *Windjet* from 10 June has commenced flights to the North Italian town Forlì.

- In August 2009 for the first time in its history RIGA International Airport will welcome the charter flights of Japan Airlines carrying 350 tourists from Japan on board of Boeing 747. The direct flights from **Japan** are scheduled for 4 and 11 August. The visit of the Japanese tourists to the Baltic countries is arranged by Japan's leading travel company JT World Vacations and **Japan Airlines**.

The tourists will spend 8 days in the Baltic countries visiting the most popular cities and attractions and then from Riga International Airport will return to Japan.

Statistics

- **Airlines: 13**
- **Passengers welcomed*: Jan. – June 1 818 404 (+9.6% 2009/2008)**
- **Destinations: 70**
- **Cargo (t): Jan. - June 4 204 (+17.3% 2009/2008)**

* According to the data of ACI Europe* (Airports Council International) in April 2009 RIGA International Airport welcomed 19.6 percent more passengers year on year, which is the biggest increase in passenger traffic among European airports.

New services for the convenience of clients and partners

New website

The website of RIGA International Airport has acquired a modern design that is user-friendly and conveniently arranged. Now the visitors of the website are offered the following new features:

- A new section for the **business partners** (B2B or business to business);
- **Newsletters** providing the business partners with regular information on various developments at the airport;
- A convenient **map of the terminal and the airport territory**;
- **Photo galleries**;
- Various **forms for booking** of VIP services and for promotion of cooperation with the business partners;
- **E-commerce**: The opportunity to apply for the airport services and products directly on the website; To earn income by placing on the website the advertising banners of business partners.

New service at the car parks

Buy an 8 or 14-day pass for long-term car parks P2 and P3 and a 24 hours' parking will cost you only Ls 2.50! The long-term car park P2 is located at the roadside within 400 metres from the airport terminal whereas P3 is opposite the Aviation Museum.



The airport launches its new Information Service 1187

Find out about the flight schedules and other information on the airport services by calling the Airport Information Service 1187.



The service staff will answer the clients' enquiries in three languages: Latvian, English and Russian and transfer the calls to the offices of RIX business partners. The charge for one call is 45 santims per minute (including VAT) in the LMT network.

It may differ in other telephone operators' networks. The Airport Information Service is accessible from abroad by number (+371) 29311189. Calls from abroad are not charged more than the local ones.

RIX participates in exhibitions

• In February the Jacob Javits Convention Center in New York hosted one of the biggest annual international tourism fairs in the US „New York Times Travel Show“. Although Latvia has been represented in this fair for three years already, RIGA International Airport participated in it for the first time. As on the previous occasions, the tourism organisations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia had a common stand of the Baltic States. RIX at the stand was represented together with the national carrier airBaltic, the Latvian embassy in the USA, the consul general of Estonia and Lithuania in New York. The fair was attended by approximately 30 thousand tourism specialists and enthusiasts and by 600 participants.

• In March one of the biggest and most important tourism fairs in Europe „ITB 2009“ was held in Germany. The opportunities of recreation in Latvia were advertised by the State Agency for Development of Tourism (TAVA), RIGA International Airport, travel companies, hotels and tourism associations. A press conference held at the fair attracted the representatives of more than 90 mass media demonstrating the keen interest of the German public about the Baltic states. The journalists were informed about the major events in Latvia this year and the latest tourist products. RIGA International Airport acquainted the German public with the vast opportunities to visit Latvia and the Baltic.

• In May the new Munich Commercial exhibition centre within the cargo week hosted the international exhibition „Air Cargo Europe 2009“ and a conference „Air Cargo Europe“. The conference was the central event of the exhibition and its venue in the exhibition hall enabled the conference delegates to examine the exposition. The participants of the exhibition had an opportunity to meet approximately 650 senior executives of various air cargo companies.



With RIXClub you are a master of your time

RIGA International Airport has developed a new loyalty program RIXClub. It is a personalised card enabling its holder to use the business class services at Riga Airport and thus save time and money. RIX Club costs 129 LVL and is valid for 1 year from the date of its purchase.

Privileges provided by RIXClub card:

- to check in at the business class desks for the flights of the airlines: Aeroflot, Czech Airlines, Finnair, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines, and at the baggage drop-off desk for the flights of airBaltic;
- to use the separate fast-track security screening area;
- to use the privileged slots in the airport's long-term car parks (P2 and P3);
- to use the discounts and/or special offers provided by the airport's business partners;
- to make a priority call to the airport's enquiry service 1187.

New tariffs approved

On 5 May the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia approved the amendments to the Cabinet Regulation drafted by RIGA International Airport clarifying the content of services, reducing service tariffs, making changes in the bulk discounts and simplifying the payment procedure.

CM Regulation No 991 „The Procedure for Determination of Payments for the Services of

Air Navigation and for Utilisation of the Services of the State Joint Stock Company RIGA International Airport, and the Procedure for Distribution of Payments“ provides for the following major changes:

- a clearer content of the civil aviation services rendered by SJSK RIGA International Airport;
- almost triple cost reduction of civil aviation basic services from EUR 8.12 to EUR 2.05;
- a set passenger service tariff of LVL 2.18 per each departing passenger;
- discarding of the bulk discounts up to 80% introduced in 2004;

- a new transit and transfer passenger charge of LVL 0.70 per passenger;
- the new system is scheduled to operate from 1 November 2009 to 31 December 2010.

The tariffs developed by RIGA International Airport will create better conditions for business development of both conventional and budget airlines. They will encourage the competition focussed on development of the national economy and will help strengthen the airport's position in the international air traffic market.