



# newsletter



July – September 2010

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# Airport news

## The number of airlines and destinations grow

On 16 August the fifth new airline commenced operations at Riga International Airport. The Russian carrier *UTair Aviation* will perform daily flights between Riga and Moscow (Vnukovo Airport).

Departure from Riga is scheduled for 6.15 a.m. and from Moscow – at 21.10. Flight duration is one hour and forty minutes. The airline *UTair* performs flights on CRJ type aircraft. Before the arrival of *UTair* regular traffic between Riga and Moscow was maintained by *airBaltic* and the Russian airline *Aeroflot*. Since 17 August there have

been four flights a day available from Riga to Moscow.

*UTair* daily makes over 200 flights to more than 70 destinations. Its route network covers the territory inhabited by 90 percent of the Russian population, and *UTair* is the biggest domestic passenger carrier in Russia.



On 3 July the Latvian national carrier *airBaltic* commenced flights from Arkhangelsk (Russia) to Riga.

*airBaltic* flies from Riga to Arkhangelsk twice a week on Mondays and Saturdays and from Arkhangelsk to Riga – on Tuesdays and Sundays. The flights are performed on a *Boeing 737* aircraft and the duration of the air trip is two hours and 35 minutes.

On 2 July 2010 Latvia's national carrier *airBaltic* opened flights on the route Riga–Luleå, Sweden, providing to passengers in Sweden convenient connections via the Northern transit hub Riga to Europe, Russia and the CIS.

*airBaltic* flies from Riga to Luleå three times a week: on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays (from Luleå to Riga: Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays).

## A world-class partner of commercial space management

From 1 January 2011 Riga International Airport will have a new operator of its commercial space and tax-free shopping area - *TAV Airports Holding (TAV)*.

Riga International Airport arranged a tender procedure for the rent of its commercial space in order to maximise its profits and ensure modern, world-class commercial service standard at the airport.

According to the terms of the agreement, *TAV* will operate the commercial space for a ten year period starting from 1 January 2011 and will pay the rent to the airport. The agreement also provides for a gradual takeover of operator's functions by *TAV* as the rent agreements of the companies currently working at the airport expire.

There is a reason to believe that next year the terminal of Riga International Airport will acquire a new „face“, bearing greater resemblance to those standards of trade, service and commerce that are met in the world's leading airports. Already at the beginning of October *TAV* representatives arrived at the airport to

commence the process of change, at the same time preserving and bringing out the national traits of Riga and Latvia.

*TAV* is the largest airport operator in Turkey established in 1997. Together with its sister company *TAV Construction* it provides integrated airport services, including management, finance and construction. *TAV* employs more than 11 000 staff annually handling 300 airlines, 315 000 flights and approximately 41 million passengers.

In 2006 *TAV* established a partnership with the investment bank *Goldman Sachs International*, a fund management company *Babcock&Brown*, an infrastructure fund of the Islamic Development Bank and the *Global Investment House*.

*TAV* has 12 daughter companies (six airport management and six ground handling operators).



## Infrastructure development continues

Within the framework of the EU Cohesion Fund co-financed project major reconstruction works of the apron will be started and several important improvements made.

The runway pavement will be renovated at the length of 2470 metres and width of 45 metres. It is vitally necessary as the pavement is worn-out, damaged and has cracks in it.



## The reconstruction works will include the following:

- Strengthening and amelioration of the runway strip to comply with the ICAO recommendations on the strength of the soil. To date the Civil Aviation Agency is not assigning CAT II to Riga International Airport due to insufficient strength of the runway strip.
- Construction of two exit taxiways for the aircraft in order to raise the runway capacity. The project envisages construction of one rapid exit taxiway and one 90 degrees taxiway.
- Construction of precision approach CAT II lighting system at the northern end of the runway. At the southern end the CAT II lighting system was built as part of the runway extension project.
- Partial reconstruction and expansion of the Apron 2 with optimisation of the aircraft stands. Five additional Class C stands will be gained this way.
- Complex reconstruction of Apron 3 in accordance with the location of the new terminal planned by AS Air Baltic Corporation.
- Construction of three anti-icing stands for Class C aircraft at both ends of the airfield.
- The hangar for washing of airfield machines, a 2200 m<sup>2</sup> paved square with water purification facilities.
- A fenced and paved container site of 1200 m<sup>2</sup> for collection and sorting of domestic and hazardous waste.

The procurement procedure will be commenced in the third quarter of 2011 and the construction works are scheduled for the period from the 4th quarter of 2011 through the year 2013.

## A new cafe open

In the middle of August another cafeteria "Buffet" was opened in the Arrivals Sector E on the ground floor of the airport terminal.

"Buffet" offers a meal prepared on the spot in the open-plan kitchen: special Buffet sandwiches, tempting salads, freshly pressed juices, crisp hot toasts and sushi.

And, of course, a rich assortment of coffee, tea with cakes and buns.





# Events

## The unprecedented exhibition of contemporary art

Riga International Airport hosted an exhibition of contemporary art *The Way* - a cultural event as yet unprecedented in the Baltic

People today are sometimes too busy to attend cultural and artistic events; therefore the exhibition at the airport was an excellent opportunity to literally bring the artworks to the travelling public. The majority of the original pieces were created specifically for the exhibition *The Way*, which aimed at presenting a rich variety of artistic expression. The young artists with their work also helped promote Riga's lively artistic and cultural scene.

The exhibition *The Way* arranged by the contemporary art project *kim?*

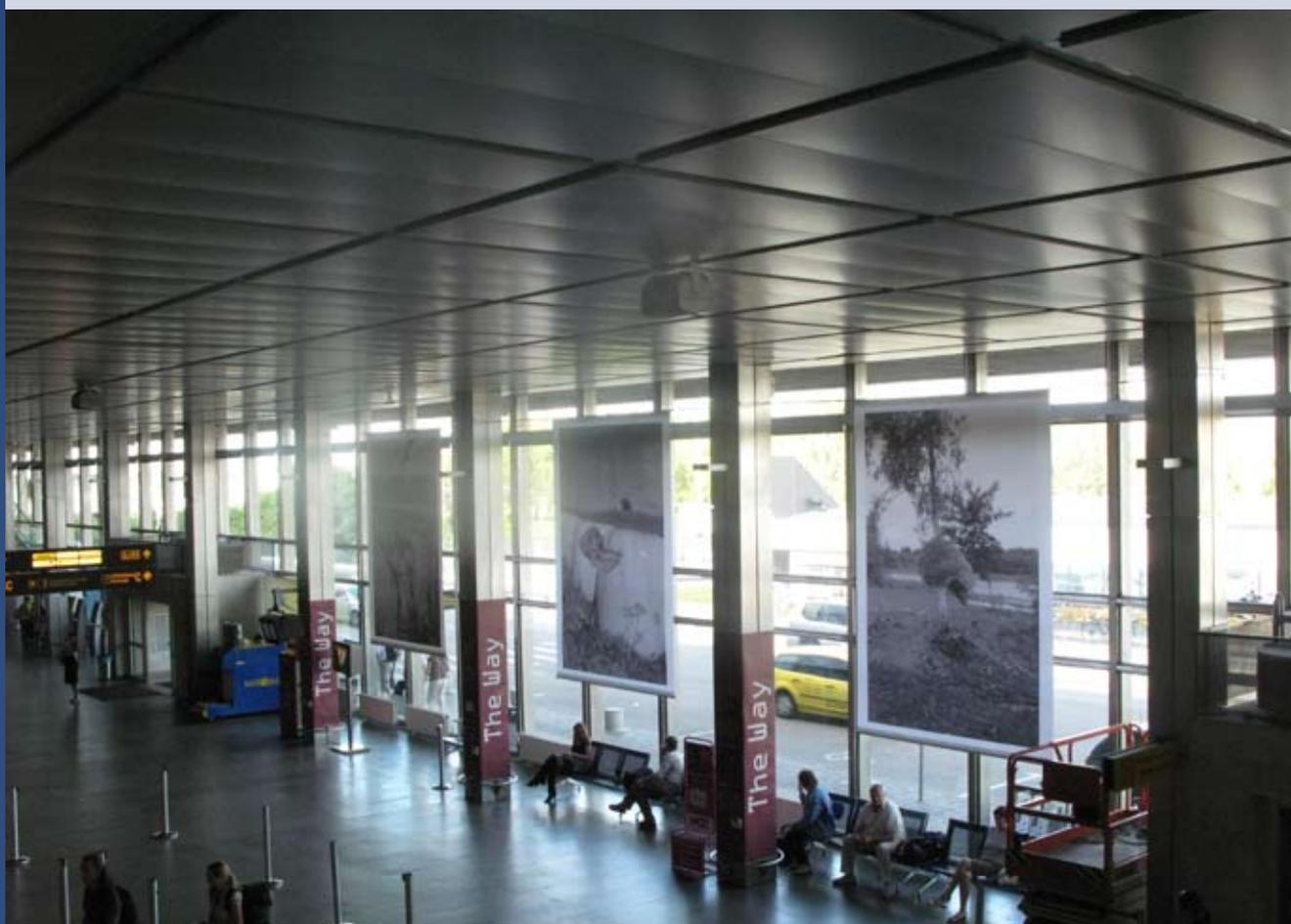
comprised the works of eighteen young Baltic artists – installations of various materials, photographic works, video and animation objects and other pieces of contemporary art.

„Riga International Airport is open to ideas, the significance of the social and cultural space is important to us because we stand at the cross-roads of various nations and cultures. It gives us a chance to showcase Latvia as a culturally and artistically creative place and also to make the airport environment pleasant for the travellers. As a cultural space the airport provides unique opportunities because the exhibition can be viewed by large numbers of people. Four and a half million passengers annually move through Riga International Airport terminal. Not a single exhibition hall or a museum in the Baltic can boast

such a number of visitors,” said Jānis Kuzulis, Member of the Board of Riga International Airport.

Artists who participated at the exhibition *The Way*: Evelīna Deičmane, Dace Džeriņa, Jānis Filipovičs, alliance F5 (Līga Marcinkēviča, Mārtiņš Ratniks, Ieva Rubeze), Ugnis Gelguda, Kaspars Groševs, Raūl Keller, Ģirts Korps, Maija Kurševa, Zilvinas Landzbergas, Līga Marcinkēviča, Katrīna Neiburga, Anta Pence, Dita Pence, Kaspars Podnieks, Kristīne Plūksna, Krišs Salmanis, Triin Tamm and Armands Zelčs.

The exhibition was intended to expand the approach of both foreign and local public to big cultural events. It was also an important step towards the year 2014 when it would be Riga's turn to become the European Capital of Culture.



## Statistics

- Airlines: 18
- Passengers: 2010 January – September 3 588 376 (+ 17% 2009/2010)  
2009 (full) 4 066 854 (+ 10,2% 2008/2009)
- Destinations: 82
- Cargo (t): 2010 January - September 8 907 (+ 34,4% 2009/2010)  
2009 (full) 9 431 (+ 23% 2008/2009)