



newsletter



October – December 2010

Airport news

- New airline at Riga International Airport – *Transaero*
- The number of destinations goes up
- In 2010 six new airlines and 12 destinations

Airport development and services

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- Opening of Riga Fashion Week at Riga International Airport
- Exhibition of the works of society *Art Duce*
- Exhibition of Ilmārs Elijass' photographs

Statistics



Airport news

The number of airlines and destinations goes up

On 31 October the sixth new airline in 2010 – the Russian carrier *Transaero* – commenced operations at Riga International Airport. It performs flights three times a week between Riga and Moscow (Domodedovo Airport).

On the route Riga – Moscow the airline *Transaero* operates three flights a week: on Mondays, Fridays and Sundays. Duration of the flight is one hour and forty minutes. *Transaero* performs flights on *Boeing 737* aircraft.



On 31 October the Latvian national carrier *airBaltic* opened flights to Milan Airport Linate in Italy.

airBaltic provides daily flights between Riga and Linate Airport (Milan). The passengers are carried by *Boeing 737* and the flight lasts for two hours and fifty minutes. Until 30 October *airBaltic* flew to Malpensa Airport (Milan). By redirecting its operations to Linate *airBaltic* can offer its passengers twice as many connections and destinations in Italy.



On 8 November *airBaltic* started to fly from Riga and Tampere to the Finnish winter sports resort Kittilä.

airBaltic flies from Riga to Kittilä four times a week: on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays (from Kittilä to Riga: on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays). Direct flights from Tampere to Kittilä are performed by *airBaltic* twice a week: on Thursdays and Saturdays (from Kittilä to Tampere – on Fridays and Sundays).

In the year 2010 six new airlines commenced operations at Riga International Airport

The Belarusian national carrier *Belavia*, the biggest Central and East European low cost carrier *Wizz Air*, the Romanian national airline *Tarom*, the Ukrainian national carrier *AeroSvit* and two Russian airlines: Russia's second biggest airline *UTair Aviation* and *Transaero* that currently operates the biggest long-haul aircraft fleet in Russia, the CIS, the Central and East Asia.

In 2010 12 new destinations were opened

Expanding the flight network from Riga International Airport further into the regions of Scandinavia, Southern Europe, the Near East and Eastern Europe. Since March 2010 flights are performed to Bucharest, Vaasa, Kuusamo, since May – to Belgrade, since June – to Amman, Beirut, Madrid and Visby, since July – to Lulea and Arkhangelsk and since November – to Kittilä and Rovaniemi.

Reconstruction of the NATO hangar

Reconstruction of the NATO hangar was started on 24 May 2010 and finished on 29 September.

By reconstructing 410 square metres of space 15 new rooms were built for the Ground Handling Department. As the building was designed and constructed according to the user's needs, it will provide the ramp service staff with modern and convenient premises.

Reconstruction works were performed by the building company SIA „Merks”.

Designer - PS „BūveForma & Ramboll”, architect - Guntis Grabovskis.



Construction of a new ramp vehicles parking lot



In the technical area of Riga International Airport, next to the NATO hangar, a new ramp vehicles parking lot was put into operation on 29 November. It was built by SIA „Tika”.

Total area of the parking lot is 1700 square metres enclosed by a fence of 223 meters.

A new lighting mast and nine switching substations have been installed so that ground handling operators in the cold season can connect their vehicles for heating.

E-tickets available at Welcome to Riga office



In December Welcome to Riga office at the airport launched a new service – sale of Riga public transport travel cards and e-tickets (e-talons).



Events

Opening of Riga Fashion Week at Riga International Airport

On 3 November the opening ceremony of the 13th Riga Fashion Week (RFW) was held at the airport. The guests of the event had the opportunity to assess the collections of garments produced by such outstanding Baltic fashion designers as Natālija Jansone (Latvia), Giedrius Sarkauskas (Lithuania) and Tiina Talumee (Estonia).

You can hardly find a more cosmopolitan place than an airport. People of different countries and cultural backgrounds meet there. It is the place where irreversible flow of time is felt most intensely. Everything happens there. Just like in fashion. The name of Riga connects these two seemingly diverse concepts advertising our capital Riga in Latvia and beyond its borders.



Exhibition “A Look at the Airport Sky” or “Waiting Area”



From 1 December to February 2011 on the airport premises – in the passenger waiting area of Sectors A and C - the visitors can view the works of artists Inga Eglīte and Kaspars Perskis in the exhibition “A Look at the Airport Sky” arranged by the society *Art Duce*.

The artist Inga Eglīte is of the opinion that the airport is a place where at the moment in time people of different nationalities and cultures shortly meet for a common purpose. Their eyes are focussed on the aerodrome. It is both serious and funny, and art is a good participant in this situation.

Exhibition of Ilmārs Elijass’ photographs

In December at Departures Sector B15 of Riga International Airport the exhibition of photographs of Ilmārs Elijass, the staff member of the airport’s ground handling department, “Aviation from a Different Viewpoint” was opened.

20 photographs displayed at the exhibition show aircrafts in the sky, on the runway and on the apron taken at different angles.

Photo: I. Elijass



Statistics

- Airlines: 19
- Passengers: January – December 2010: 4 663 692 (+14.7 % 2009/2010)
2009: 4 066 85 (10.2 % 2008/2009)
- Destinations: 82
- Cargo (t): January – December 2010: 12 247 (+29.9 % 2009/2010)
2009: 9 431 (23 % 2008/2009)