



Dear Members and Industry colleagues,

Welcome to this newsletter, which includes these items of interest:

1. **Membership** - welcome to new members and delegates
2. **Air Transport Consultations** -
 - Night Flying
 - Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRMs)
plus updates on
 - Denied Boarding Regulation
 - Consumer protection
 - Copying of Documents
 - Later operation of the London Underground at Heathrow
3. **The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and General Meeting**
4. **Regulated Airports (LHR/LGW/STN/MAN) pricing regimes**
5. **Future Heathrow Group**
6. **Gatwick Express** - *an update*
7. **Heathrow Connect**
8. **Facilitation (Immigration and Passports)**
 - IRIS
 - E Borders
 - Machine-readable passports (USA)
9. **Metal cutlery** - *an update*
10. **Summer holidays** - **BAR UK Office closure**

1. **Membership - welcome to new members and delegates**

It is a pleasure to welcome back China Airlines (CI) into BAR UK membership. Previously online, CI has rejoined as an offline passenger airline whose delegate is Mr Edward Wang.

BAR UK is sad to see existing delegates or their alternates leave, but is pleased to welcome their replacements:

- **Egyptair** - Habib Aidroos, for Rudy L'Aimable who left the company on 24 June
- **MEA** - Mrs Naima Kassir, for Mr Mitchell Hawes, Acting Manager UK, who resumes his main role as Sales Manager.
- **Varig** - Mr Mario Bruni, replacing Mr Paulo Rodrigues.
- **VLM** - Mr Peter Kenworthy for Titus Johnson who left the company on 03 June.

2. Air Transport Consultations Department for **Transport** (DfT)

There are two new consultations now in process. They are:

a. **Night Flying Restrictions for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.**

This is the long-awaited second stage of the consultation process, for which the documents have only recently been published. Responses are required by 16 September 2005. With this second stage being delayed by the recent General Election, the existing controls will be extended by another 12 months.

Full details can be found via the 'Aviation' pages on the DfT website www.dft.gov.uk

b. **Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRMs).**

The DfT has published the first part of a two-stage consultation in respect of proposed EU regulation for PRMs. In brief, it proposes that airlines and airports provide a seamless service for all PRMs, and to bear the costs between them.

There are many views to accommodate, and the consultation paper has already been distributed to all BAR UK members.

The text of the EU Regulation can be downloaded from http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/air/rights/doc/com_2005_047_en.pdf.

Final responses are due to the DfT by 12 August.

Consultation updates

- **Denied Boarding Regulation**

The first stage of the IATA challenge has been heard, but the outcome of that will not be known until probably later summer 2005.

- **Consumer protection**

It is still unclear what recommendations the CAA may have made in respect of mandatory protection for flight-only purchases, and in what form.

The Civil Aviation Bill going through Parliament addresses various aspects relating to tour operating, but does not include flight-only purchases.

However, tour operators, other industry segments, and the UK Travel Trade Gazette, are campaigning for flight-only purchases to have mandatory consumer protection, so the matter is being closely monitored.

- **Copying of Documents)**



The Home Office will not confirm when the results of the consultation process will be published. They replied to BAR UK enquiries in early June that it would be 'shortly'.

- **Later weekend operating of the London Underground at Heathrow**

A decision based on consultation responses will be made until late summer but not published until sometime in the autumn.

3. AGM and General Meeting - 19 May



The AGM, followed by a General Meeting, was held on 19 May 2005 at the Park Inn Hotel at Heathrow.

The AGM was straightforward and Councillors (Directors) were re-elected in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The general meeting was generously hosted by BAA. Speakers included the CAA who started the meeting off on the sensitive issue of 'Constructive Engagement', relating to future airport pricing regulation (*see item 4 below*). BAA then made a series of presentations concerning Terminal 5, future terminal occupancies, and the Master Plan for Heathrow through to 2020.

The meeting was exceptionally well-attended, with Airport managers in attendance as well as the normal BAR UK delegates.

4. Regulated Airports



Regulated airports are those whose prices are authorized by the CAA for 5-years at a time. These airports are Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Manchester.

The next five yearly period is for 2008-13 for which the consultation process has just started. The CAA have radically changed the manner in which the consultation process takes place, placing more emphasis on direct discussions between the airports and their airline customers. Known as 'Constructive Engagement', full details of the process are available from the CAA website:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/5/engdocs/erg_ercp_airportregulation_may05.pdf

At this early stage, the various airport consultative councils have been in touch with the airport operators to take the process forward.

5. Future Heathrow



Full details of the organisation, its founders (which include BAR UK) and its purpose, will be found on www.futureheathrow.org.

The launch event took place, very successfully, at the Confederation of British Industry on 19 May. The guest speaker was Mr Alistair Darling M.P., Secretary of State for Transport who set out the Government's aspirations for future aviation policy, with strong provisos concerning sustainable development, and environmental effects.

6. Gatwick Express - An update



The future of the Gatwick Express remains unclear.

BAR UK has been in discussion with other stakeholders, and it is probably timely to write to the Secretary of State again, to reinforce both our concerns, and the inconsistency with significant parts of the Government's white paper on future aviation.

7. Heathrow Connect

In addition to the non-stop Heathrow Express train service from London Paddington to Heathrow, a new service, with intermediate stops, has just been introduced.

With five intermediate stops on this route, the new service will offer additional convenience and links for passengers and staff. It will also further contribute to the efforts being made to reduce airport car journeys, and meet environmental targets. Full details available on:

www.heathrowconnect.com

8. Facilitation (Immigration and Passports)

(i) **IRIS** - This is fast track passport entry scheme for regular non-UK air passengers.



It is now operating a pilot scheme at Heathrow in Terminals 2 and 4.

Full details of the scheme are available at www.iris.gov.uk

(ii) E Borders

The UK Home Office is developing plans to electronically monitor, and authorize, the flow of international passengers into, AND out of, the UK. This will require intense cooperation between the immigration, customs, and police authorities, and a system for the transfer of passport and reservations booking information from airlines to an e borders unit. Ultimately, airlines will be authorised, at check-in, whether to carry, or not carry passengers.

In the immediate future, legislation revisions are being sought in respect of data protection laws, and carriers will need to be fully consulted on joint data transfer systems, and who will bear the cost of them.

An initial Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has just been published seeking stakeholders' initial views.

E Borders will become a major item of future discussion and debate.

(iii) Machine-readable passports (USA) - an update

The requirement for machine-readable passports, with biometric information, for entry into the USA has been delayed, much to the relief of several interested parties.

In brief, all passengers from Visa Waiver Program countries must, by 26 October 2005, travel on passports with a digitized photograph on the data page. UK Passports already comply with this requirement.

The requirement for passports to contain an integrated circuit chip, capable of storing biometric information from the data page, has been deferred to 26 October 2006.

See http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/visa/niv/mrp_bio.html for full details.

9. Metal cutlery - an update



As previously advised, the DfT and TRANSEC had authorised the reintroduction of metal cutlery, subject to meeting its stated criteria.

Those criteria are proving so restrictive that many carriers are discovering that their metal cutlery inventories do not comply, or only partially comply, with these criteria, so are effectively forced into retaining plastic instead.

The Chief Executive took the matter up at a most senior government level, since when he, and the BAR UK Chairman, have undertaken personal negotiations on the matter.

A timescale cannot be given as to when a result may be achieved, but matters are pursued on a regular basis.

10. Summer holidays - BAR UK Office closure

Holiday commitments require that the BAR UK office will be closed
11-29 August inclusive.

Additionally, the office will be closed on 8 August, and have restricted opening 9-10 August.

It will not be possible to respond to any letters, e-mails or telephone calls during the above closed periods.

THE NEXT EDITION OF THE BAR UK NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED AT THE END OF AUGUST 2005