

26 April 2018

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Hermes and C.T.O. held joint meetings with airlines and tour operators during "Routes Europe 2018"

Very positive messages have transpired in respect to the air connectivity of Cyprus, both for the current year as well as the preliminary plans of the airlines for 2019. This is the main conclusion that has emerged following the contacts of a joint delegation of Hermes Airports and the Cyprus Tourism Organization with representatives from dozens of airlines and tour operators at the "Routes Europe 2018" forum, which took place in Bilbao, Spain.

What came out from the meetings, is that it appears that the upward trend recorded already for the winter tourist season will continue with a positive prospect for the summer season started on April 1st 2018. At the same time, the strong and potential interest of airlines to further expand their schedules to Cyprus during the summer 2019, was also confirmed. It should be noted that most airlines' planning for the coming summer is already at a very advanced stage and the indications are particularly encouraging.

Another important observation is that despite the fact that competing tourist destinations to Cyprus such as Turkey and Egypt are recovering, the tourist product of Cyprus remains very popular and attractive and, therefore, several airlines continue to rank Cyprus, very high on the list of choices they offer to their customers.

Within the framework of the contacts made by the joint delegation of Hermes and C.T.O. at the "Routes Europe 2018" forum, new and additional opportunities to strengthen and enrich the aviation connectivity of Cyprus with new destinations beyond the United Kingdom, such as France, Italy, Poland and the Baltic countries, have also been identified.

On behalf of Hermes Airports, Ms Maria Kouroupi, Senior Manager for Aviation Development, said that *«the most important element resulting from the contacts we have made at Routes Europe 2018, is that the growth tourism trend recorded during the recent years seems to be established and stabilized. We are very pleased because our long-term efforts to improve the connectivity of Cyprus are fruitful and the selection of Cyprus in airline programs is now a conscious choice».*

On behalf of the Cyprus Tourism Organization, Mr. Marinos Menelaou, Deputy General Manager, said that *«we are especially delighted because the very good image of the touristic Cyprus has been ascertained in conjunction with the most important factor of air accessibility and connectivity; an element which is considered imperative for the establishment of the historically high performance of our tourism industry which has been observed in recent years».*

