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PRESS RELEASE

“Under Siege 2010” readiness exercise is successfully completed at Larnaka International Airport

A major readiness exercise codenamed “Under Siege 2010” has been successfully carried out at Larnaka International Airport. The exercise, which was part of the international political-military exercise “Argonaftis” being held by the Republic of Cyprus from 25-28 May 2010, lasted approximately two hours and involved various government and non-governmental departments and services based both within and outside Larnaka Airport.

The scenario of the exercise envisioned Eurocypria Airlines flight ECA 001 landing at Larnaka International Airport as part of an operation to evacuate civilians trapped in a neighbouring country, as a result of rapid political-military developments in the Middle East. On the flight were Cypriots and other European nationals. After a stopover in Larnaka, the flight was due to depart for another European destination. However, immediately after the Cypriot passengers had disembarked and while ground services were being provided, the aircraft was hijacked.

As a result of the emergency, various services within and outside the airport, together with rescue teams, were called upon to deal with the incident.

For Larnaka Airport, the object of the exercise was to determine the readiness of all the relevant services and the level of coordination among them when faced with a major emergency.

Hermes Airports wishes to express its satisfaction with the final result of the exercise. Useful conclusions have been drawn and these will be evaluated and implemented appropriately, with the aim of improving the level of rapid response and the overall efficiency of the various services.

The organisation and coordination of the exercise was undertaken by the Operations Centre of Hermes Airports with the support of the Department of Civil Aviation and



the cooperation of various government and non-governmental departments and services. The exercise was observed by high-ranking officials and the heads of various services and organisations based in Cyprus and abroad and involved in airport operations and crisis management.
