

Press Release

25 November 2021

ERA brings Europe's diverse aviation community back together

- Representatives from across the European aviation community reunited in London this week as part of the eagerly-anticipated ERA Membership Conference.
- This two-day event provided a much-needed opportunity for airlines, airports, manufacturers, suppliers and aviation service companies to carry out essential business development and discuss industry priorities as we edge closer to 2022.

For the first time since the pandemic began, members of the European Regions Airline Association (ERA) met face to face to discuss key issues affecting the industry and to reassess the situation since the outbreak of the virus.

The ERA Membership Conference, held 24–25 November in the cosmopolitan city of London, included not only a chance to network with fellow members and industry colleagues after such a long hiatus, but also a mix of topical conference sessions.

Assessing the industry's current and future challenges, topics on the first day of the event included the landscape of European aviation over the next decade and beyond, and how members can strive to maintain a path towards recovery. Our first day of speakers included: Jan Palmér, CEO, Xfly and President, ERA; Jóhanna á Bergi, CEO, Atlantic Airways; Pat Byrne, Chairman, Cityjet; Pierre-Olivier Bandet, CEO, HOP!; Henrik Morch, Director, DG COMP, European Commission; Gilles Feith, CEO, Luxair; Phil Seymour, President, IBA Group; Jonathan Hinkles, CEO, Loganair; and Robert Sinclair, CEO, London City Airport.

Our third session, chaired by ERA Director General Montserrat Barriga, discussed our industry's sustainability challenges and how we can achieve net-zero European aviation, from the introduction of sustainable aviation fuels to technological advances in electric and hydrogen-powered aircraft. Panellists included: Thorsten Lange, EVP Renewable Aviation, Neste; Jérémy Caussade, President, AURA AERO; and Rod Williams, CCO, Universal Hydrogen.

Equally, COVID-19's devastating effects on the aviation industry were felt around the globe, but how airlines responded has not been 'one size fits all'. Therefore, for our final conference session, we heard how a selection of ERA member airlines, all operating different business models, have responded to COVID and how they have gone about surviving a global crisis. Speakers included Vasiliki Christidi, Group General Manager, SKY express; Valter Fernandes, Managing Director, TAP express operated by Portugália Airlines; and Lars Jordahn, CEO, West Atlantic.

For the full agenda, go to the [ERA website](#).

Montserrat Barriga, Director General, ERA, says: "There is no doubt in my mind that face to face meetings provide invaluable opportunities for us all, not only on a business level but on a personal level

Founded in 1980, European Regions Airline Association (ERA) is a non-profit trade association representing around 58 airlines and 136 companies involved in European air transport and is the only association representing the entire spectrum of companies involved in European aviation. The association promotes the interests of European airlines by lobbying European regulatory bodies on policy matters, promoting the social and economic importance of air transport and its environmental commitments.



as well, providing much-needed human interaction. This key membership event has been an amazing opportunity for our members to reunite, to reflect on what we've all been through and work together to ensure a safe, sustainable and secure future for European aviation.”

For more information, please contact Becky Taylor, Editor Corporate Communications, on +44 (0)1276 485582 or by email at becky.taylor@eraa.org.

Note: This event was organised in line with UK Government COVID-19 regulations and guidelines. All delegates completed ERA's Attendee COVID-19 Code of Conduct before entering the event and encouraged to maintain adequate social distancing from other delegates, where possible.

