

<b>Event</b>	“Airports 2008: Euro 2012 - inspiration for the airport development” conference
<b>Subject</b>	Airport infrastructure
<b>Date</b>	17-18 September 2008
<b>Location</b>	Marriott hotel (Congress Hall) Warsaw, Poland

### **The Conference:**

On 17th and 18th September 2008 in the Marriott Hotel the fourth edition of Airports Conference took place. The Conference was devoted to the challenges that Polish and Ukrainian airports are to meet before the European Football Championship – Euro 2012. Due to the fact that half of football fans with tickets to the tournament will come to the matches by plane, the specification of supporting airports, which will play a key role during the intensified passenger traffic, is the most crucial issue.

According to the representatives of the sector the basic change that needs to be made by the year 2012 is the construction of appropriate number of taxiways, the lack of which is one of the problems of these airports. Airports are also waiting for the UEFA report, which will be released by September, 25th . The report will determine the condition of Polish airports from the perspective of preparations for Euro 2012.

### **Description:**

The subject of this year’s conference was the organization of Euro 2012. Among others, Michał Marzec- the Director of the Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw – the Partner of the Conference Airports 2008 – told us about the preparations of Polish Airports to Euro 2012 – “ Airport Warsaw has already undertaken investment projects, and we do not feel endangered as far as the implementation of these projects is concerned.” – said Marzec. Organizational and systemic changes have already commenced, i.e. the increase of airport capacity, introduction of Cat III procedures, indication of temporary infrastructure to serve passengers (following the example of airports in Vienna, Geneva and Zurich).

The representatives of Switzerland and Austria introduced the participants of the conference to the preparations of their countries to Euro 2008. The organization and preparations to the championship in Switzerland was divided into two main parts - the first part concerned the planning of infrastructure and the airports’ capacity consistent with the safety standards, the second part concerned the air security ensured by the Swiss Air Force.

The participants also acquainted themselves with the experiences of the Vienna Airport. During the Euro 2008, 190 additional charter flights were opened serving about 28,000 passengers. In addition about 650 business jets carried about 4,100 passengers. - „ It is worth to emphasize the significance of medium airports, which must be



opened for the time of the intense passenger traffic.” - said Friedrich Lehr, Senior Executive Vice President of Vienna International Airport.

In Poland the passenger traffic has been increasing regardless of Euro 2012. Thus, some airports like e.g. Poznań Ławica Airport do not expand only for the purpose of the championship. Their development plans for the subsequent years are not directly aimed at the Euro 2012. “Only some logistic solutions will be introduced in Poznań especially for Euro.” - said the spokesperson of Poznań Ławica airport. - „Due to the increasing traffic we have already constructed the take-off hall, which increased the comfort of passengers’ travel, we are also implementing other projects.”

Airports 2008 also hosted the representatives of the Ministry of Transport and Communication and aviation sector from Ukraine. In order to encourage the football fans to travel by plane, JSC Dniproavia Airlines intend to reduce the ticket prices for the time of the tournament, so they are more available for each and every person. Despite the problems and difficulties the representatives from Ukraine assured that they will be ready for Euro 2012.

### **Remarks:**

The Airport Conference, organized by Actia Conferences, a branch of Actia Forum Ltd., each year represents higher standards and enjoys an increasing recognition among the representatives of aviation sector, who appreciate the professionalism of speakers, scope of subjects raised, and the presence of foreign representatives from the sector. Actia Conferences has already commenced the preparations for next year, a jubilee edition of the Airports Conference.