

Budapest, November 02, 2016

Summer Season Ends in October for HungaroControl

Air traffic in the Hungarian airspace grew by 2 to 3% monthly in the peak summer months. This increase is significant considering that the drastic, 20% traffic increase in the past two years has by now become integrated into the traffic handled by HungaroControl. Hungarian air traffic controllers handle this unique situation without any significant delays. In air traffic control, summer season ends at the end of October and the size of traffic is close to double the traffic in the winter season.

Traffic figures

Overflying traffic in the Hungarian airspace reached an unprecedented level in the summer of 2016. Daily traffic exceeded 2,700 movements on each Saturday in August, and 6 August saw a new traffic record with 2,745 overflying flights.

Traffic at Budapest airport grew by 3.3%, 1% and 4% in June, July and August, respectively. In total, all three summer months saw stronger traffic compared to the previous summer.

In July and August, HungaroControl's air traffic services ensured the safety of more than 100,000 flights and nearly 40 million passengers in the handled airspace sectors combined.

Air traffic in the summer is nearly double that in the winter. Summer season is less and less limited to the three summer months; it lasts practically from the end of April until the end of October.

Background

Although air traffic has not decreased due to the political turmoil in the past two years in Europe, air routes have been significantly rearranged, which has affected the Hungarian airspace as well.

Traffic in the Hungarian airspace jumped by 20% following the Russian-Ukrainian crisis and the disaster of Malaysian Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine. This increase has since been integrated into HungaroControl's traffic and air traffic controllers' daily work.

Although terrorist acts in Turkey in 2016 affected air traffic, vacationers continued to travel, which brought further traffic growth in the busiest summer months.

About HungaroControl

Due to its state-of-the-art technology and developments and services, HungaroControl Magyar Légiforgalmi Szolgálat Zrt is one of the renowned service providers in international aviation, and an active regional initiator and co-operating partner of the European Union's integration efforts under the Single European Sky.

According to EUROCONTROL's statistical data and forecasts, the number of flights in Europe is 10 million per annum, and in the next 20 years this figure may even double. During the past few years HungaroControl has launched several significant projects to improve its air navigation services, guarantee the safe management of the increasing air traffic, and promote the imminent success of the integration undertaken by the European Union. Due to its continuous innovation and the application of the results of its research and development, HungaroControl has an outstanding role in Europe in flight safety improvements, capacity increases, reduction of airline costs and increased environmental protection.

As a result of combined efforts and on commission from NATO, since 3 April 2014, HungaroControl has been managing civilian air traffic overflights in the upper airspace over Kosovo. In February 2015 HungaroControl was the first to adopt Free Route Airspace use without any limitations in Hungary's entire airspace, well before the deadline (1 January 2022) set by the European Commission.

In addition to improving its traditional air navigation services and technical and technological background, one of HungaroControl's strategic objectives is the establishment of a regional, Central European air navigation knowledge centre in joint effort with its partners.

The purpose of HungaroControl's capital investment projects is to enable the Central European Functional Airspace Block (FAB CE), a regional co-operation of seven Central European countries, to provide competitive services and operate at the highest technical and technological standard.

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