



RYANAIR CALLS ON BUNDESKARTELLAMT & EU COMMISSION TO BLOCK LUFTHANSA-AIR BERLIN TAKE-OVER

News / Airlines



Ryanair, Europe's No. 1 airline, on 30 Aug 2017 urged the German Bundeskartellamt and the EU Commission to block the stitch-up between the German Government, Lufthansa and Air Berlin to carve up Air Berlin's assets, while excluding major competitors and ignoring both competition and State Aid rules, and called for immediate action to block this anti-consumer take-over.

This insolvency is being timed to allow Lufthansa to take over a debt-free Air Berlin (its major German competitor) which will be in breach of all German and EU competition rules, and this Lufthansa monopoly has been supported by the German Government providing €150m of State Aid, so that Lufthansa can acquire Air Berlin, as Lufthansa moves from a 68% share to a 95% monopoly, which will result in German customers and visitors suffering higher air fares. Competitor airlines will struggle to get slots in major airports such as

Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich, where Lufthansa will control over 80% of peak time slots.

Ryanair also urged all Berliners to vote “Yes” on 24th Sept to keep Tegel Airport open. The new Brandenburg Airport will have a capacity of only 27m passengers, which is less than Dublin (a city with one-third of Berlin’s population). With almost 33m passengers already travelling through Berlin’s 2 existing Schonefeld and Tegel airports last year, the planned closure of Tegel will leave Berlin with less airport capacity than its existing traffic.

In Berlin, Ryanair’s Michael O’Leary said:

“The German Bundeskartellamt and the European Commission must block the anti-consumer stitch-up playing out between the German Government, Lufthansa and Air Berlin. Given that the German Government is centrally involved in these manoeuvres (loaning €150m), the Bundeskartellamt will be afraid to impose competition rules. On this basis, it is vital that the European Commission takes immediate and decisive action to protect German consumers from a Lufthansa high fare monopoly.

Ryanair will continue to grow in Germany as more and more German customers choose our low fares and “Always Getting Better” customer service over Lufthansa’s high fare monopoly”

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