



## **AFRICAN AIRLINES ASSOCIATION**

**Association des Compagnies Aériennes Africaines**

SITA: NBOXA8X

Tel: 254 20 2320144/2320148

Fax: 254 20 601173

P. O. Box 20116 Nairobi 00200 Kenya

Email: [afraa@afraa.org](mailto:afraa@afraa.org)

Web: [www.afraa.org](http://www.afraa.org)

---

**AFRAA Media Brief**

**04 May 2011**

### **AFRAA Responds to EU Ban of Air Madagascar's Two B767 Aircraft**

The imposition of a ban on Air Madagascar's two B767 aircraft by the EU, the only two aircraft capable of operating to Europe is a major setback to the airline and the country. This partial ban comes at a time when Mozambique is also put on the list of banned states consequently affecting the operations of all airlines registered in the country. Madagascar's tourism industry and economy, which has already been smarting under various sanctions imposed by some states due to the political situation in the country, will further suffer.

Air Madagascar has an excellent safety record which few airlines worldwide can boast of. The airline is IOSA registered and adopts industry best practices in safety, security and quality. Statistics from the Flight Safety Foundation show that the carrier has never had an accident in the last 25 years.

The EU practice of blacklisting, be it partially or fully, has caused greater damage beyond that of the targeted airlines with tremendous economic and financial difficulties to the countries concerned and its people while it makes no practical contribution to aviation safety.

The unilateral nature of the decision to ban with its attendant lack of transparency, prior consultation and the absolute absence of representation of those concerned, throws serious doubt as to its fairness as well as its impartiality. The practice appears to be prone to manipulation for political and economic interest. This is because the net beneficiaries from the barring of States and/or airlines so far have been EU carriers as they step in to capitalize on the vacuum created.

A blacklisting not only ban affected airlines' operation into EU destinations but also has adverse effects on their operations to other cities outside Europe as ticket sales of the airlines' in EU countries dwindle and codeshare/interline partners withdraw their tickets and limit their cooperation.

AFRAA calls on African governments, AFCAC and the AU to take firm and decisive action on the growing number of African States on the EU list of banned airlines and to also engage the European Commission in a consensual dialogue aimed at establishing a mutually agreed criteria for improving safety in the continent.

### **Notes for Editors**

#### **About AFRAA**

The African Airlines Association (AFRAA) is a trade organization of airlines from the member states of the African Union (AU). Founded in Accra, Ghana in April 1968, and today headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. AFRAA's primary purpose is to foster commercial and technical cooperation among African airlines and to represent their common interests. AFRAA membership cuts across the entire continent and includes all the major intercontinental African airlines. The Association members represent 83% of total intercontinental traffic carried by all African airlines.