















#AviationEvent

AVIATION-EVENT 2024 CLJ REVIEW DOCUMENT



Aviation-Event 2024 CLJ, 15 March 2024

Host: Cluj International Airport | Romania Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Cluj, Romania

Cluj International Airport hosts the third edition of Aviation–Event 2024 CLJ

The third edition of Aviation-Event took place in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, hosted by Cluj International Airport, marking a significant milestone in the regional aviation sector. Situated in the vibrant European city often referred to as the 'Heart of Transylvania', Cluj-Napoca has played a pivotal role in shaping the historical narrative and driving forward the economic prosperity of the surrounding region. Its multicultural ambiance serves as a testament to centuries of cross-cultural exchange, and its strategic location has positioned it as a hub for academic, cultural, and business activities.

By assembling a diverse ensemble of industry professionals, the event created an invaluable platform for in-depth discussions regarding the future trajectory of aviation. Through the convergence of experts, innovators, and decision-makers from various sectors within the industry, the conference facilitated dialogue, collaboration, and progress.

Panel discussions and focused sessions throughout the day delved into the intricate challenges and promising opportunities that characterize the aviation landscape. Participants engaged in a robust exchange of insights, drawing from their wealth of experience and expertise to address pressing issues facing the industry.

Throughout the one-day conference, panel discussions and targeted sessions looked into key challenges and opportunities facing the aviation industry. Participants exchanged valuable insights and forged connections that not only benefited them individually but also enriched the broader aviation community. This collaborative exchange of ideas and expertise has undoubtedly contributed to advancing the collective goals of the aviation sector.

PhD. Eng. David Ciceo, CEO, Cluj International Airport stated

"As we managed to successfully close the 3rd edition of Aviation-Event CLJ 2024, I extend my gratitude to each of the speakers and participants for their invaluable contribution and their active participation."

During this edition of the conference, we have engaged in insightful discussions, exchanged valuable insights, and forged meaningful connections. The expertise and dedication of the present speakers and the valuable discussion during the panels and sessions of Aviation-Event 2024 CLJ have enriched our collective understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the aviation industry.

Drawing participants from over 20 countries and gathering attention from journalists across diverse nations, the event has already

established itself as a highly anticipated gathering, widely promoted throughout Europe.

The event has evolved into a tradition of great importance, not only for civil aviation in Romania but also for Cluj International Airport and the broader European aviation community. It serves as an invaluable networking platform, facilitating exchanges of ideas, experiences, and innovative solutions. The conference's timely and relevant themes resonate with all participants, offering valuable insights to enhance our operations and navigate the evolving aviation landscape."

Cluj International Airport has exceeded the 3 million passengers' milestone annually and is continuously expanding its operations in order to accommodate the increasing demand of the full economic development region. Its strategic location in the heart of Transylvania makes it a popular destination for both business and leisure travellers. Also, Cluj International Airport leveraged its catchment area and achieved remarkable growth in passenger traffic, making it Romania's airport with the most significant growth in this regard. Thanks to its commitment to excellence, Cluj International Airport has established itself as a model of good practices in the aviation market.





More Impressions https://bitly.ws/3hGkz

High-profile delegates and guests representing some of the aviation industry's most important bodies and sectors were greeted upon their arrival for the event at Cluj International Airport.













Impressions of Press Conference

















Moderator of the day





Peter Baumgartner, Former CEO of Etihad Airways and Chairman of Bluearbre Ltd., warmly welcomed all participants to the 3rd edition of the Cluj Aviation–Event. He recalled the inaugural event in 2022, highlighting how the topics discussed then paved the way for ongoing open discussions on critical aviation issues of interest to professionals in the field.

Welcome Speeches









Răzvan Ciortea, Deputy Governor, Cluj County; István Vákár, Vice President, Cluj County; Dan Tarcea, Vice Mayor, Cluj-Napoca City; and Viorel Federiga, President of the Administration Board, Cluj International Airport, extended a warm welcome to participants at the 3rd edition of Aviation-Event Cluj in 2024. They highlighted the continuous growth and expansion of Cluj International Airport, emphasizing its significant benefits for the community and its pivotal role as a leading regional airport. They also noted the event's evolution since its inception, underscoring its role in convening global aviation professionals to discuss critical industry issues.

Opening Keynote



David Ciceo, CEO, Cluj International Airport, opened the event with a keynote address, extending a warm welcome to all participants. He delved into the post-pandemic recovery of Romanian aviation, highlighting the impressive resurgence of eastern European airports, particularly those in Romania. David Ciceo discussed the remarkable growth of air traffic in Romania over the past 25 years, especially since its EU accession in 2007, and the significant investments made in recent years to fuel this growth. He emphasized the upcoming milestone of Romania's entry into the Schengen area on 31 March 2024, and its positive impact on air traffic. David Ciceo also showcased CLJ airport's achievements, including reaching 3.2 million passengers in 2023, and outlined future plans for capacity expansion and sustainability, aiming for 7 million passengers by 2024 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. He acknowledged the challenges posed by these ambitious goals and ongoing expansion efforts.













Moderated Keynote | Robert Carey, President, Wizz Air, and Rüdiger Kiani-Kreß, Journalist, WirtschaftsWoche



Robert Carey, President, Wizz Air, and Rüdiger Kiani-Kreß, Journalist, WirtschaftsWoche, engaged in a keynote discussion highlighting the pivotal role of Wizz Air in the aviation market as a pioneer of its unique business model. Robert Carey emphasized the significance of low-cost travel in expanding air travel globally, especially evident in the rapid post-pandemic recovery. He underscored Wizz Air's success, attributing it to a strategy cantered around openness, transparency, and fairness toward both staff and passengers. The conversation delved into the challenges posed by current supply chain issues and their impact on air travel. Despite these hurdles, Robert Carey emphasized Wizz Air's ability to ensure continuous growth and profitability by prioritizing long-term sustainability over short-term gains. He provided insights into Wizz Air's financial performance over the past year as an example. The discussion concluded by emphasizing that Wizz Air's enduring growth is fuelled by its business model, which prioritizes reliability and efficiency. This commitment drives the airline to overcome challenges and continually improve its service for the benefit of its customers.







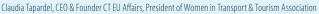


Roundtable Talks | Beyond Borders Unleashing Economic Potential through Digital Transformation



Pawel Galiak, Director of Aviation and Commercial Services, Kraków Airport, Claudia Tapardel, CEO & Founder CT EU Affairs, President of Women in Transport & Tourism Association, Global Public Speaker, Hakkı Güntay, General Manager, Turkish Airlines Romania, Peter Oncken, Managing Partner, INTRO Aviation and moderator Theodoros Koumelis, Managing Director, Travel Media Applications engaged in a very intresting round table talk centered around the importance of digital transformation for global connectivity and the economic potential of airport-led economies. During a roundtable discussion, experts highlighted the importance of digital transformation for global connectivity and airport-led economies. They explored how air professionals can overcome challenges and unlock growth through technological innovation, policy changes, and collaboration. Speakers discussed the impact of the pandemic on the aviation industry, emphasizing the need for reinvention and a focus on sustainability and passenger satisfaction. They noted the increasing demand for air travel and the importance of leveraging technology to enhance passenger experiences. The discussion also addressed geopolitical tensions affecting fuel prices and supply chains, highlighting the industry's resilience in the face of challenges. Ultimately, the panelists agreed that efficiency is paramount, achievable through embracing technological advancements and digital transformation to provide a seamless and safer travel experience.









Theodoros Koumelis, Managing Director, Travel Media Applications

CEO Talks













Moderator, Marcel Riwalsky, CEO, Aviation-Event, led a captivating discussion about the importance of airport collaborations and alliances prompting Jesús Caballero Pinto, CEO, Sofia Airport; Bettina Ganghofer, CEO, Salzburg International Airport; Laila Odina, Chairperson of the Board, Riga International Airport and Hamdi Güvenç, CEO and Board Member, YDA group of companies and Aviation Sector, to share their input end experience on the matter.

During the panel discussion, CEOs introduced themselves, detailing their investments and innovations aimed at enhancing both their institutions' economic performance and passenger experiences. They discussed achievements and challenges, focusing on sustainability efforts, government support, and future business models. Attendees engaged in open discussions, posing challenging questions about upcoming changes and challenges in the aviation sector, airport expansion amid geopolitical and economic uncertainty, and network collaboration.

Panel 1 | Media, Politics, and Aviation Are Industry Leaders Effectively Communicating Aviation's Importance



Raed Omari, Journalist, The Jordan Times, Luc Citrinot, Freelance Journalist, Andrew Charlton, Managing Director, Aviation Advocacy and Patrick Mulder, Publishing Editor, Verkeersbureaus.info, moderated by Michael Kerkloh, Supervisory Board Member, Lufthansa and Hannover Airport, engaged in an interesting discussion about the professional environment in the aviation industry, as it relates to the political environment and to aviation and travel focused media. The panel began by discussing the effectiveness of the aviation industry's communication strategies, particularly with the media, and the professionalism of stakeholders' communications. They emphasized the importance of credibility and using various communication channels to reach a wider audience. The panelists highlighted the challenge of balancing profitability and affordability in air travel and the role of traditional versus non-traditional media channels. Regardless of the medium used, they stressed the importance of communicating truthful information to the target audience. They concluded by emphasizing the role of social media in effectively and authentically communicating information in real-time to ensure it reaches the intended audience.









Panel 2 | The Future of Regional Air Connectivity – what can airports and airlines deliver



Andrew Charlton, Managing Director, Aviation Advocacy acted as moderator for the last panel of the day, leading Bastiaan de Bruijne, General Counsel, ACI EUROPE; Frank Quante, CEO, Fraport Bulgaria; Narcis Obeada, Commercial Director, TAROM; Delia Dimitriu, Director Smarter Mobility Solutions, UK & Strategic Advisor COMOTI, RO and Alexander Schroll, Director Business Development, EVIA AERO in a discussion about the role of airports and airlines in terms of future developments of regional air connectivity. The moderator introduced the panelists and led a discussion on the significance of regional airports in aviation and their success factors. They highlighted regional airports' crucial role in tourism and their contribution to regional development and economic efficiency, particularly in decarbonization efforts. The panel emphasized the importance of remaining attractive to airlines and transitioning to energy hubs to meet sustainability requirements. They also discussed regional connectivity and the pivotal role of regional airports in providing efficient connections to major hubs and desired destinations.













Closing Speech













Marcel Riwalsky, CEO, Aviation–Event, along with Sergiu Spoială, Acting Director, Chisinau International Airport; Jesús Caballero Pinto, CEO, Sofia Airport, and David Ciceo, CEO, Cluj International Airport, closed the conference by expressing gratitude to speakers and participants for another successful edition of Aviation–Event 2024 CLJ. They announced future events hosted by Chisinau Airport on 30 May 2024; Sofia Airport on 29 November 2024, and the return of Aviation–Event in CLJ in 2025 on 28 March 2025 for its anticipated fourth edition.

VIP Reception

















VIP Reception

















VIP Reception













Aviation Media Award Ceremony





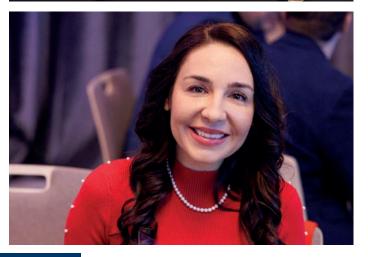












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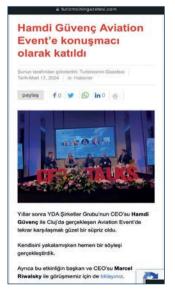














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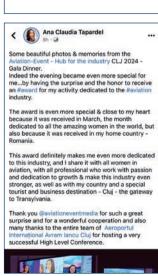






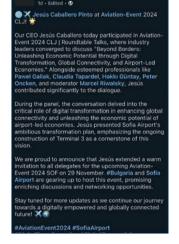












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Directorii aeroporturilor din Cluj-Napoca și Chișinău pun bazele viitorului pod aerian România - Moldova I Foto: Aviation-Event

Zboruri către Dubai, Atena, Belgrad sau Chișinău și reluarea cursei Lufthansa de Frankfurt se numără printre prioritățile Aeroportului Internațional Avram Iancu Cluj (AIAIC).

"Din 31 martie, în noaptea de sâmbătă spre duminică, AIAIC intră în Spațiul Schengen, deci 70% dintre pasagerii care călătoresc în această zonă nu vor mai fi controlați de cartea de identitate și pașaport nici la plecarea din Cluj, nici





Aviation–Event 2024 CLJ | Article Clippings



= VOYAGES DAFFAIRES S'a Les deux prochaines conférences d'Aviation-Event se tiendront le 15 mars à Cluj-Napoca en Roumanie puis à Chisinau, en Moldavie, le 30 mai. La première parlera environnement mais surtout intégration de l'IA dans les services aéroportuaires. La seconde s concentrera sur la Moldavie en tant que marché aérien et le futur de l'aviation dans les Balkans et en

On parle beaucoup et régulièrement d'environnement dans les conférences sur l'aviation. Quel est

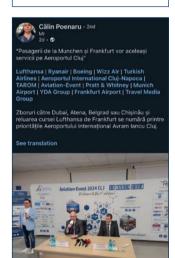
Europe centrale. Les deux conférences accur

npagnies aériennes et d'aéroports.

votre sentiment à ce sujet ?

notamment nombre d'experts incluant les PDG de

Marcel Riwalsky - Le thème de l'environnement est bien sûr présent depuis de nombreuses années. Il est fondamental dans la transformation de l'industrie aéronautique et de l'aviation commerciale. Lorsque nous organisons un évènement comme le Aviation-Event, c'est un des sujets qui revient sur les listes de souhaits de nos partenaires. Il est donc intéressant de souligner les progrès dans cette activité. Cependant, je dois dire que ce n'est pas le sujet numéro 1 du grand public























Aviation-**Event 2024** CLJ: το ζωτικής σημασίας Forum yla τους ηγέτες TOU





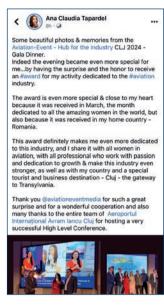






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Host: Cluj International Airport | Cluj-Napoca





























