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# Aviation-Event 2026 CLJ

# 20 MARCH 2026

Host: Cluj International Airport



## MODERATOR OF THE DAY

**Alexander Bogoyavlensky,**  
A220 Pilot and Journalist, Bloomberg TV Bulgaria

## OPENING WELCOME SESSION

Time: 09:00

**Alin Tișe**, President, Cluj County  
**Maria Forna**, Cluj County Governor  
**Emil Boc**, Mayor, Cluj-Napoca City \*

Moderator:

**José Ramón Bauzá**, Former Balearic Islands President, Former MEP  
(Aviation-Event Supervisory Board Member)

\*Note: to be confirmed

## OPENING KEYNOTE

Time: 09:30

**David Ciceo**, CEO, Cluj International Airport (CLJ)

Moderator:

**Miquel Ros**, Aviation Journalist, AeroTime, allplane

## KEYNOTE INTERVIEW – INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Time: 09:50

**Matthew Cornelius**, Executive Vice President  
Airports Council International - North America

Moderator:

**Marcel Riwalsky**, CEO, Aviation-Event

## KEYNOTE INTERVENTION - LEADERSHIP STORYLINE

Time: 10:40

**Ian Malin**, Chief Commercial Officer, Wizz Air

Moderator:

**Rüdiger Kiani-Kreß**, Aviation and Defense Journalist, Wirtschaftswoche  
Member Aviation-Event Supervisory Board

COFFEE BREAK 11:20 – 11:45

## PANEL 1 - INVESTMENT & GOVERNANCE

Time: 11:45

**Bettina Ganghofer**, CEO, Salzburg Airport (SZG), Member Aviation-Event Supervisory Board

**Riivo Tuvike**, CEO of Tallinn Airport (TLL), Board Member ACI Europe

**Askin Demir**, CEO, Aéroport International Blaise Diagne (DSS), Member Aviation-Event Supervisory Board

**Jakub Malecki**, General Manager for Romania and Republic of Moldova, LOT Polish Airlines

Moderator:

**Margarida Pereira-Müller**, Journalist

**LUNCH 12:45 – 14:15**

## PANEL 2: INNOVATION

Time: 14:15

**Thomas Dworschak**, CEO, Košice Airport (KSC) and Director IT Digitalization & Innovation Vienna Airport

**Gert Taeymans**, EVP Europe, ADB SAFEGATE

**Iustinian Şovrea**, Business Operations Head, GlobalLogic Romania

**Sophia Mari**, Supervisor, Stakeholder Management, Airport Expansion Program (AEP), Athens International Airport (ATH)

**Sorin Zaharia**, Director of the UNESCO Chair "Engineering for Society" of Politehnica Bucharest

**Marius Popescu**, President (Co-Founder), Romanian Airline Companies Association "Carpathia"

Moderator:

**Luc Citrinot**, Journalist, Voyages d'Affaires

## PANEL 3: AVIATION NATIONAL FOCUS

Time: 15:15

**Bogdan Costaş**, CEO, TAROM

**Cristian Paris**, VP Balkans, Menzies Aviation

**Marius Pandel**, CEO, Animawings

**Marius Văcălău**, CEO, Lagardère Travel Retail Romania

**Romeo Vatră**, General Manager, Iași International Airport (IAS)

**Mihai Pătrașcu**, General Manager, Satu Mare Airport (SUJ)

Moderator:

**Michael Eggenschwiler**, ex-CEO Hamburg Airport (HAM),  
Senior Aviation Expert, Member Aviation-Event Supervisory Board

## WRAP UP OF THE DAY

Time: 16:15

**Peter Baumgartner**, CEO, Bluearbre Ltd.  
President Aviation-Event Supervisory Board

## CLOSING OF THE DAY

Time: 16:25

**David Ciceo**  
CEO, Cluj International Airport (CLJ)

## 19 March 2026 | Thursday Gala Dinner

Time: 19:00 – 23:00 | Dress Code: Smart Casual / Evening Cocktail Outfit

 **Radisson Blu Hotel, Ballroom**



20 March 2026 | Friday



## Aviation-Event 2026 CLJ Conference Day

Time: 09:00 – 16:30 | Dress Code: Business Attire / Business Casual

 **Radisson Blu Hotel, Stadionului Street, no. 1, Cluj-Napoca**





## Accommodation - Partner Hotel



 **Radisson Blu Hotel, Stadionului street, no. 1, Cluj-Napoca, 400375, Romania**



For accessing the **preferential rates**, please send an e-mail the promotional code **AE2026** for reservation request at [reservations.cluj@radissonblu.com](mailto:reservations.cluj@radissonblu.com)

- static offer, single use, bed and breakfast, promotional code valid for the dates **18 - 22 March 2026**, please note that the city tax will be added to this static rate

## ★ CLUJ-NAPOCA CITY TOUR

*Dress Code: Casual*

19 March 2026 | 16:00 – 18:00

21 March 2026 | 09:30 – 11:30

**Start & end tour location: Radisson Blu Hotel, Cluj-Napoca**



## Executive Supervisory Board Presidents



**Ioanna Papadopoulou**  
Director of Communications &  
Marketing, Athens International Airport

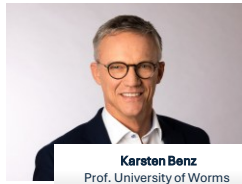


**Peter Baumgartner**  
Former CEO Etihad Airways and  
Chairman Blueair Ltd.

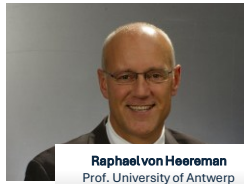
## Executive Supervisory Board



**Michael Kerckhof**  
Member of Supervisory Board,  
Lufthansa



**Karsten Benz**  
Prof. University of Worms



**Raphael von Heereman**  
Prof. University of Antwerp



**Rafael Schwartzman**  
RVP Europe, IATA



**Martin Isler**  
Luxair



**Julian Jäger**  
COO & Joint CEO, Vienna Airport



**Markus Kopp**  
Senior Aviation Consultant



**Michael Garvens**  
Managing Director, TUIfly GmbH



**Peter Oncken**  
Managing Partner, INTRO Aviation



**Nazareno Ventola**  
CEO, Bologna Airport



**David Cioico**  
CEO, Cluj Airport



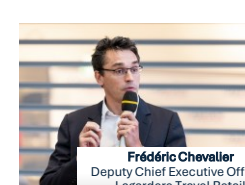
**Ioanna Papadopoulou**  
Director of Communications &  
Marketing, Athens International Airport



**Peter Baumgartner**  
Former CEO Etihad Airways and  
Chairman Blueair Ltd.



**Rüdiger Kiani-Kreß**  
Aviation Journalist,  
Wirtschaftswoche



**Frédéric Chevallier**  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer,  
Lagardère Travel Retail



**Ivan Bessato**  
Chief Aviation Officer, ADR



**Daniel Burkard**  
Director External Relations &  
Business Development



**Bettina Ganghofer**,  
CEO, Salzburg Airport



**Anton Önnik**  
Independent Aviation Consultant



**Michael Eggenschwiler**  
Senior Aviation Executive, Board  
Member, Mentor



**José Ramón Bauzá**  
Former Balearic Islands President, MEP TRAN  
Coordinator, Tourism Task Force Chair



**Marian-Jean Marinescu**  
Former MEP



**Candace McGraw**  
Chair of ACI World Governing Board, CEO,  
Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport  
(CVG)

## Media Task Force



**Peter Baumgartner**  
Former CEO Etihad Airways and  
Chairman Bluearbre Ltd.



**Rüdiger Kiani-Kreß**  
Aviation Journalist, Wirtschaftswoche



**Eike Knall**  
CMO, The Radio Group & Radio Frankfurt



**Sven Klawunder**  
CEO, Flying Media



**Marina Papageorgiou,**  
Head Press Office,  
Athens International Airport



## Hosting Partners



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**Aviation-Event 2026 CLJ**  
20 March 2026

**Cluj International Airport | Romania**

## Organizer of the conference



**DA! GmbH from Darmstadt specializes in high-quality business events – from 20 to 1,000 participants. DA! takes care of all the details – from planning and issuing the invitations to the organization of special locations and the program.**

Conferences, networking events, fireside chats, industry events? Get together with decision-makers and much more are all part of DA! GmbH's portfolio.

The Aviation-Event, one of the leading events in the aviation industry, and the Economic Summit on Germany involving decision-makers from the world of business, politics, society and administration, are two events that are known well beyond the borders of Germany that were held in recent years.

**Marcel Riwalsky, Managing Director of DA! GmbH,** holds a Master of Business Administration degree and Certificat d'Etudes Supérieures and has organized many high profile events in the past decade. As the initiator of Aviation-Event, he comes up with ideas for the event that goes by the same name as well as the concept for Aviation-Event Special. In the meantime, over 100 top speakers and discussion participants have been on stage in front of over 600 guests from politics and all sectors of business.

[www.facebook.com/marcel.riwalsky](https://www.facebook.com/marcel.riwalsky) [www.linkedin.com/in/marcelriwalsky/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/marcelriwalsky/)

[https://www.instagram.com/marcel\\_riwalsky/](https://www.instagram.com/marcel_riwalsky/)

## Host of the conference



**PhD. Eng. David CICEO**  
CEO, Cluj International Airport



### Aviation-Event once again reveals to the world the true Gateway to Transylvania!

Cluj International Airport, the main gateway to the north-western region of Romania, is proud to host the 5th edition of Aviation-Event. This prestigious gathering marks the fourth time Aviation-Event has chosen Cluj-Napoca, further solidifying the region's importance on the global aviation map.

Strategically located in one of the country's most dynamic economic areas, Cluj International Airport has become a benchmark for growth and innovation in the aviation sector. Over the past decade, the airport has consistently demonstrated its capacity to leverage the full potential of its catchment area, transforming itself into a key destination for both business and leisure travelers.

The journey of Cluj International Airport is one of ambition and vision. From serving 36,000 passengers annually in 1996 to exceeding 3.58 million passengers in 2025, this milestone is a testament to the airport's strategic investments in infrastructure and its commitment to delivering exceptional services. As a model of best practices, the airport is now regarded as a leading example in South-Eastern Europe for its forward-thinking approach and significant achievements.

Aviation-Event 2026 CLJ will be held in Cluj-Napoca, a city known as the "Heart of Transylvania," that highlights the region's unique combination of heritage and innovation. As a multicultural and academic hub, Cluj-Napoca is a vibrant city that plays a vital role in Romania's cultural, economic, and industrial landscape. It stands as the ideal location for high-level discussions and collaborations that will shape the future of aviation.

Cluj International Airport is honored to welcome aviation leaders and professionals to this landmark event, fostering an environment where ideas, experiences, and solutions come together to drive progress in the global aviation industry.