



Liege Airport, July 29, 2016

**The world's best horses are travelling to
the Olympic Games from Liège**

Ready, steady, go! The world's best sportsmen and sportswomen are in the starting-blocks for the Rio Olympic Games (5-21 August). Just like the athletes, Liege Airport and LACHS are fully prepared for the competition. For the airport and the freight-handler, the challenge is to organise a very special type of transport between Liège and Brazil.

No less than 185 horses will pass through Liege Airport on their way to Rio. Most national federations (France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Spain and Sweden) are sending their horses to Rio via Liège. Departures are scheduled for 30 July, 1, 2, 6 and 7 August, with returns on 12, 17, 18, 21 and 22 August. The Emirates airline will ensure this air bridge between Liège and Rio.

On each flight, the horses will be accompanied by grooms and vets, and several tonnes of supplies (equipment, food and hay, etc.) will be loaded on to the aircraft.

Before they take part in the three events – jumping, dressage and eventing – the horses will stay at Liege Airport in excellent facilities. The HORSE INN, managed by LACHS (<http://www.horse-inn-liege.com/>), has been operational since May 2016, comprising 55 horse boxes in a well-insulated, secure building, which is well-ventilated in summer. This new building has been designed to ensure the absolute well-being and physical condition of the horses. Everything has been designed with their well-being in mind, from the soft polyurethane floor covering to the surround areas paved with rubber tiles.

Major recognition

“Our airport, with its border inspection post (also known as the Flyin’ Farm), the Horse Inn, and its range of partners (airline companies, handlers, etc.), is now a recognised leader in the transport of horses”, explains Luc Partoune, CEO of Liege Airport. “It is a great honour and a major recognition for us to be able to help the Fédération Equestre Internationale (*International Federation for Equestrian Sports*), the different national federations and owners provide return transport for the best horses in the world.”

Yossi Shoukroun, LACHS' CEO says: “LACHS specialises in transporting horses. In 2015, Lachs handled more than 2,800 horses, of which 800 took part in the leading international show-jumping competitions in Hong Kong, Los Angeles and Dubai.”

About Lachs:

Based at Liege Airport, LACHS (Liege Air Cargo Handling Services SA) is ideally situated at the heart of the European golden triangle (Paris - Amsterdam - Frankfurt), with direct access to all major economic centres. LACHS specialises in handling complex freight, such as perishable products, pharmaceuticals, live animals, and oversized and dangerous goods as well as the transport of famous works of art.

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About Liege Airport:

Liege Airport is the top cargo airport in Belgium and one of Europe's leaders in transporting live animals and perishable goods. Almost 3,000 horses travel via Liege Airport enjoying its infrastructure, as well as the specialist skills of its partners and vets. Strategically located, with direct connections to all Europe's economic centres, Liege Airport is operational 24/7 and offers the best services for the cargo sector. The airport's infrastructure and organisation mean minimum turnaround times for distribution chain management.

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