

### **Skeyes is badly affecting Liege Airport**

Over the night of 25-26 March 2019, Liege Airport suffered another work stoppage by Skeyes air controllers. Several cargo flights were affected. Since the beginning of the year, the air-traffic controllers have already clocked up 12 days of protest action, costing millions of euros to airlines and companies working at Liege Airport. The logistics chain, both upstream and downstream, has been seriously disrupted and clients (businesses and/or private individuals) have suffered as a result.

For Luc Partoune, CEO of Liege Airport, this situation is unacceptable: "Social action is holding our clients to ransom. Behind each package, there is a client. Skeyes is no longer providing the service for which it is paid. It is completely unacceptable that a minority of air-traffic controllers should risk the economic activity of our airport, of airlines and their clients. A joint committee has made a preliminary agreement and the disproportion of the actions being carried out in terms of what is at stake is incomprehensible. I am astonished at the focus of these night-time actions, which is prejudicial to our airport operations. These actions should cease immediately. In the mid-term, I am calling for air traffic control to be regionalised and for this service, which must not under any circumstances be interrupted, to be privatised."

For Minister for Airports Jean-Luc Crucke, the problems at Skeyes are recurrent and a minority of workers should not be able to penalise Walloon airports: "Sweden and England are considering opening up control of their skies to privatisation. I have asked the Walloon Airports Company (Sowaer – Société Wallonne des Aéroports) to examine this possibility. The regionalisation of air-traffic control is a serious option, even more so since Flanders is favourable to it. I understand that in international law, this won't be straightforward, but we cannot continue like this. Airlines need stability to carry out their business."

#### **About LIEGE AIRPORT:**

Liege Airport, 7<sup>th</sup> cargo airport in Europe and 1<sup>st</sup> in Belgium, is the only European airport that prioritises full cargo (#freightersfirst). It specialises in express transport, electronic commerce, pharmaceutical products and perishable goods, as well as live animals. Liege Airport, and its brand Flexpress, is operational 24/7 without restrictions, offering a flexible and fast service, all less than a day's journey by truck to the heart of the Amsterdam-Paris-Frankfurt golden triangle with its 400 million consumers.

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