
MEDIA RELEASE

DFWC and ACI World call for measures critical to airport industry recovery

Relaxation of duty free limits and on-arrival duty and tax-free shopping proposed

Montreal, 16th. September 2020 – Airports Council International (ACI) World and the Duty Free World Council (DFWC) call for urgent measures to support the recovery of the international airport industry.

ACI's Policy Brief - Path to the airport industry recovery – Restoring a sustainable economic equilibrium draws attention to the crucial role duty free and travel retail plays in the success and growth of airports around the world, with up to 44% of airport revenues coming from non-aeronautical sources, and retail concessions contributing 30% of this figure.

A rapid recovery of duty free and travel retail sales will help provide vital revenues to airports and contribute to the entire aviation industry returning to financial health.

The ACI Policy Brief, which has the full support of the DFWC, calls for:

- a temporary relaxation of travellers' duty free limits and allowances for selected duty free products to stimulate sales and consequently help airports generate revenues from their retail concessionaires, and
- the introduction of duty and tax-free shopping on arrival to level the playing field with those countries which have already introduced duty and tax-free shopping on arrival.

Airport duty-free shopping on arrival is now an established practice on most continents across the globe and is especially prevalent in Asia-Pacific, Latin America-Caribbean and the Middle East. More than 45 countries already have introduced the concept of on-arrival duty free including some of the largest aviation markets in the world—Australia, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. It is a very popular service with travelers who prefer to delay shopping until they arrive, especially given strict hand luggage policies and environmental concerns on carrying weight onboard aircraft.

“Airports recognize the importance of commercial activities, such as retail and duty free, in diversifying their revenue streams beyond aeronautical sources but stimulating commerce at airports goes beyond the industry bottom line in the current crisis,” ACI World Director General Luis Felipe de Oliveira said. “In fact, ensuring that the traveling public has greater choice and convenience in their purchases goes hand in hand with rebuilding passenger confidence. Most importantly, changes to tax-free shopping also represent a needed lifeline for the millions of jobs in the travel retail space and broader aviation ecosystem, industries which have been most affected by the lockdown and subsequent downturn.”

Commenting on the policy brief, DFWC President Sarah Branquinho said the Duty Free World Council has engaged with policy makers and regulators across the globe in recent months to make clear to them the importance of our industry to tourism, aviation and maritime business models – and indeed the wider economies of most nations.

“We are delighted to see the central role of duty free and travel retail sales highlighted in this latest ACI Policy Brief and the call for increased allowances and arrival shopping which would provide a much need boost to our industry and to the airport sector. Throughout much of the COVID-19 outbreak airports and travel retail have stood against the worst of the conditions, often without government support. Now is the time for governments around the world to put in place the operating conditions that give airports and travel retail the best possible chance at recovering swiftly and returning to their role as major contributors to economic growth and job creation.”

Notes for editors

1. Download the Policy Brief - Path to the airport industry recovery – Restoring a sustainable economic equilibrium
2. Read ACI’s latest economic impact analysis bulletin: [The impact of COVID-19 on the airport business](#).
3. Stay up to date with ACI World’s COVID-19 communications through its dedicated [news hub](#).
4. Airports Council International (ACI), the trade association of the world’s airports, was founded in 1991 with the objective of fostering cooperation among its member airports and other partners in world aviation, including the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization. In representing the best interests of airports during key phases of policy development, ACI makes a significant contribution toward ensuring a global air transport system that is safe, secure, customer-centric and environmentally sustainable. As of January 2020, ACI serves 668 members, operating 1979 airports in 176 countries.
5. The Duty Free World Council, the DFWC, is the industry association representing the interests of the global duty free and travel retail channel and has the overall objective of creating the optimal operating environment for the industry that will allow it to achieve its full potential.

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