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### Malév ceases operations



Malév has announced that it ceased operations at 06.00 local time today. The Hungarian flag carrier has been under financial pressure since the European Commission ordered the airline to repay state loans it had received between 2007 and 2010.

In a statement, Malév said that service providers had lost confidence and sought payments in advance, leading to an “untenable situation” for the airline.

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, speaking on radio station Kossuth earlier today, said that there was still a need for a national carrier and a re-launch is not impossible. However there are very few potential investors in the European air industry at the present time.

Formed in 1946, with its head office in Budapest, Malév had a network of 50 destinations in 34 countries using a fleet of 22 aircraft. It had been a member of Oneworld since 2007.

### Air Astana to spend \$1 billion on new aircraft



Air Astana, flag carrier of Kazakhstan, has revealed that it is to spend over \$1 billion on 15 new aircraft. It is understood that the aircraft will be six A320s, four B767s, three B787s and two Embraer E190s.

CEO, Peter Foster, told a meeting of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, that the purchases will be funded by its own resources together with credit agencies within the EU and USA.

### Majority stake sell-off in Cyprus Airways being considered



Cyprus’ Finance Minister, Kikis Kazamias, has said that a proposal has been prepared to sell off a majority share in Cyprus Airways.

Speaking recently, he said that “We have already prepared a proposal for the Cabinet to consider at a future meeting. We are asking that a decision is taken by the government – being the biggest shareholder of Cyprus Airways - announcing its readiness to negotiate with a strategic investor or partner, not excluding the sale of the majority of shares”.

### **airberlin to be full member of Oneworld on 20 March**



airberlin will become a full member of Oneworld on the 20 March. The Berlin based carrier said that it “received its green light to board oneworld after successfully completing a thorough review of its readiness conducted by British Airways, which is sponsoring its entry into the alliance, with the oneworld central team”. Hartmut Mehdorn, CEO, commented “Becoming a member of oneworld is one of the most significant departures so far for airberlin. It will strengthen our competitive position considerably, enabling us to offer our customers a truly global network together with our partners who include some of the best and biggest airlines in the world, while enabling us also to tap into all the financial benefits that come from being part of a global alliance, through additional passenger feed and participation in various efficiency programmes”. NIKI, an airberlin group member, will become an association member of the alliance on the same day.

### **AirAsia Japan receives AOC**



AirAsia Japan, the low cost carrier set up as a joint venture by AirAsia and ANA, has received its Air Operators Certificate from Japan’s Civil Aviation Bureau. The airline is expecting to commence flights, using A320s, from Narita to Sapporo, Fukuoka and Okinawa in August and to destinations in Korea two months later.

### **Piece of Aviation History for February 3**



**1948** - All 145 pilots and co-pilots at National Airlines go on strike, grounding the carrier's fleet. The action is taken because of "concern over air safety" after mechanics and office workers had struck for more pay, and because of "notoriously poor pilot-management relations." George T. Baker, National's president promptly dismissed the pilots and filed notice that he would sue the pilots union for \$5,000,000 for "libel and slander." Baker subsequently started replacing the strikers with non-union pilots in an attempt to break the strike. The dispute was eventually settled in the pilots favour.

### **Quote of the Day**

Silence propagates itself, and the longer talk has been suspended, the more difficult it is to find anything to say. Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

### **A Bit of Light Relief**

Morris had been playing golf for years and he had the finest golfing equipment, but his technique never improved a bit. As his friend watched, he teed up at the first hole and promptly drove a brand-new ball into the woods. On the second hole, he drove another new ball into a lake. On the third, he lost a new ball in another part of the woods.

"Why don't you use an old ball?" his friend Sam asked.

"I've never had an old ball," Morris said.