



Media release

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## **FARNAIR extremely satisfied with 2009 – expansion of the fleet and activities**

**2009 will go down as the blackest year in the history of aviation – especially as far as air freight is concerned. But not for Swiss airline FARNAIR Europe: in 2009, it notched up its second-best result and continues to grow – in logistics as well!**

“Not only did we save costs during the crisis, we also made investments. The sales team was expanded and focussed its efforts, a move that paid off many times over”, reports Guy Girard, CEO of FARNAIR Europe. As a result, it has been possible to achieve the second-best result in the Swiss airline’s 25-year history. FARNAIR Europe recorded its best result in 2007, although as a private company it does not publish figures.

### **Core competence strengthened and repositioned for the future**

With a fleet that has now grown to 15 fuel-efficient, quiet ATR aircraft (14 freighters, one 46-seater passenger aircraft) FARNAIR Europe’s know-how in this field is in great demand all over the world. Consequently the FARNAIR Group is currently playing an active role in the setting-up of the new Indian cargo carrier “Deccan 360”. The ATR-72 in cargo configuration is being employed in India together with additional chartered cargo aircraft.

In Morocco, too, FARNAIR Europe is building up a cargo carrier whose principal business operations will be in North and West Africa as well as providing a link to the European market. To ensure that sufficient capacity is available for this, the fleet is currently being augmented with a further two ATR-72 freighters, each with an 8.2 tonne payload. One of these will be put into service in Morocco, the other in India.

This expansion course has ultimately also contributed to the establishment of a further milestone in the history of the FARNAIR Group with the setting-up of an in-house ATR training centre in Vienna. This means that future development in the core aviation competence will receive a further boost and our long-term growth supported with well-trained, qualified specialist personnel.

### **Expansion not restricted to aviation**

The strategic orientation of the FARNAIR Group in Europe at the Basel, Switzerland and Budapest, Hungary locations is now also facilitating the development of the logistics sector in the non-aviation area. Here the Budapest location is playing a decisive role as the future hub of the FARNAIR Group.

FARNAIR already has a presence at the location with its own cargo airline as well as being established in the area of aircraft and cargo handling. In order to be able to offer our customers integrated solutions from a single supplier, we have also undertaken investment in the road transport area. These activities are now complemented by rail services under the FARNAIR Rail Logistics flag. Guy Girard: "Our goal is to operate a hub for air, road and rail freight in Budapest."

### **Expansion of the workforce to more than 200**

FARNAIR Switzerland, based at EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg, currently employs more than 200 personnel in Switzerland and is adding to this figure every month. Every night, the FARNAIR Europe freight aircraft convey many tonnes of urgent deliveries from various locations all over Europe on behalf of the major players in this sector. The passenger aircraft is employed on behalf of the Swiss Confederation for flights to Kosovo as well as for charter flights all over Europe and to North Africa.



*FARNAIR is now also on the rails: a FARNAIR Rail Logistics train operates daily between Germany and Poland.*

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**FARNAIR Europe** (founded in 1984) is one of Europe's leading express freight airlines. **FARNAIR Switzerland** currently operates a fleet consisting of twelve ATR-72F with 8.2 tonnes/75.5 cubic metres of freight capacity and three ATR-42 (two freighters and one 46-seat passenger aircraft). Subsidiaries: FARNAIR Switzerland, FARNAIR Hungary, FARNAIR Handling, FARNAIR Rail Logistics  
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