

IATA calls for industry response on oil prices

The airport community is not doing enough to help fellow aviation stakeholders cope with the pressures arising from the constantly increasing price of oil, IATA's director general and chief executive officer (CEO) has claimed.

Giovanni Bisignani contrasted recent statements from the IATA following its annual general meeting (AGM) on 1-3 June in Istanbul, and from CANSO after its AGM and CEO conference in Madeira

on 15-17 June, with the response of the airport community.

"With the ANSPs [air navigation service providers], I can honestly say the answer was fast," Bisignani commented on 19 June during the SITA Airline IT Summit in Brussels. "After our Istanbul declaration a couple of weeks ago, there was a meeting of CANSO, and yesterday they agreed to speed up and increase an efficiency programme, working in a very effective way with IATA. So there we had a very positive answer."

The Istanbul statement from IATA included encouragement

for "the entire industry value chain to show leadership and responsibility". CANSO's response was to issue a four-point action plan to improve efficiency and maybe even cut charges in future.

"With the airports the situation is very different," Bisignani continued. "It varies from airport to airport, and also differs according to ownership. ... Last year we saved USD2.9 billion. Is it enough? No, but we're pushing hard and I hope that the Istanbul declaration will act as a wake-up call for airports to follow what their partners in CANSO and IATA are doing. Together we must

find common approaches to make this industry more effective and survive this emergency."

Nancy Gautier, ACI communications director, told *Jane's* that airports are indeed striving for greater efficiencies by providing a balance of service offerings to meet airlines' needs. "We believe that airports are doing that today in local negotiations with their carriers and since we represent only about 4 per cent of their operating costs, they can't expect much bottom-line difference, even when we reduce charges or implement more efficient technologies that bring long-term savings." *BV*