

MEDIA STATEMENT

13th October 2015

DARWIN AIRLINE RESPONDS TO SSP

The Ticino-based airline Darwin Airline wishes to respond to the news articles issued on October 13th which mention statements from Mr. Jamshid Pouranpir, trade unionist from the Geneva SSP/VPOD office.

In August 2015, the top management was approached by Mr. Pouranpir. In response, Maurizio Merlo, CEO of Darwin Airline, has stated that “the company is committed to a trusted and constructive dialog with its employees and trade unions, and is always fully available to discuss any matter concerning its staff wellbeing and, in this particular case, that of pilots and crew. In full respect of matters of privacy and discretion regarding our staff, we have first requested the trade unionist to provide evidence of legal representation and to specify the matters that were under discussion”.

During the first and only meeting with Mr. Pouranpir, which took place in September 2015, both parties agreed to set up follow up meetings, and to clearly define the topics to discuss in each meeting.

The agreed process was not respected by Mr. Pouranpir, who refused any further discussion with the airline, as well as failing to provide evidence of his position as legal representative of a defined number of employees. This clearly violates the standard negotiation procedures, necessary to regulate the dealing between employer and trade unions, and ensure the best possible outcome for both parties. This has prevented the company from addressing any clear issue with information and explanation.

The company, therefore, condemns this behavior, as well as the statements made to the press by Mr. Pouranpir, designed only to discredit instead of improving.

This has been reported to the General Secretary of the trade union which employs Mr. Pouranpir.

Mr. Pouranpir’s statement that some airline’s pilots have not received nor have scheduled holidays in the current year, are untrue. The company also denies that pilots exceed the total yearly flight hours, which are all below the standard annual maximum.

Maurizio Merlo, CEO of Darwin Airline, stated also that: “We are in full compliance with all rules and regulations. In this regard, the company is fully certified under IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit), designed to guarantee that all operations are in full respect of industry safety standards, verified and certified regularly by FOCA (Federal Office of Civil Aviation)”.

Darwin Airline confirms its decision to remain a regional carrier on the Swiss and European market, maximizing efforts, costs and synergies, leveraging on the business opportunities provided by the partnerships it has developed in the past years.

In order to protect its image and reputation, the company may be forced to pursue legal action against persons who have formulated unjustified accusations against the company.

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