

## **Statement on e-AWB in the Nordic Countries – Air Cargo removes paper documents**

Nine IATA member airlines; SAS Cargo, Finnair Cargo, Lufthansa Cargo, Air France/KLM, Korean Air, Cathay Pacific, Qatar Airways and Emirates have taken the lead in the Nordic market to implement the electronic-air waybill (e-AWB) for their air freight shipments.

The Nordic and Baltic Countries began piloting the project in 2009 and implementation is now moving ahead. The project is a global project involving the World Customs Organization (WCO), Ground Handlers, Freight Forwarders and Airlines. The implementation is performed locally in each country and the nine lead airlines have agreed to a single process for the Forwarders to deliver Cargo to the Cargo Terminals and Ground Handlers. This process completely eliminates the need for the paper and replaces it through electronic messages. This new agreed single process will decrease the handling and delivery time for airfreight. The AWB is also one of potentially 30 documents that accompany each air shipment, enough to fill 80 Boeing 747 freighters per year. Removing the paper from the air cargo process will improve efficiency and reliability, as well as have a positive effect on the environment.

“Congratulations to the Nordic and Baltic countries, the airlines, forwarders and ground handlers involved, for implementing the e-AWB across the region. This is a fantastic example of cross-border cooperation and will be of immense benefit to businesses and the economy. This clearly demonstrates that where there is a will, there is a way. I am confident that this will motivate other nations and regions as they look to accelerate the adoption of the e-AWB,” said Des Vertannes, IATA’s Global Head of Cargo.