

## **ETIHAD CARGO TO PARTNER WITH AVIANCA CARGO ON NEW FREIGHTER SERVICE BETWEEN MILAN AND BOGOTÁ**

Etihaad Cargo, the freighter division of Etihad Airways based in Abu Dhabi, will partner with Avianca Cargo, the cargo division of leading Latin American carrier Avianca, based in Colombia, through a commercial agreement to deploy a freighter flight from Milan's Malpensa Airport, Italy, to Bogotá, Colombia and from Bogotá to Amsterdam.

The new service will operate twice a week beginning 12 November 2014, providing an important cargo connection between Europe and South America. The flights will also facilitate seamless transportation of goods to other markets around the world by linking the extensive global networks of both Etihad Airways and Avianca Cargo.

In addition to passenger flights by Etihad Airways, Etihad Cargo currently operates four freighter flights per week between Abu Dhabi and Milan, Malpensa. It will also feed traffic from markets across Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Due to its strategic location in Southern Europe, Milan will function as a logistic hub by road to other cities in Italy, including Rome, and other countries such as France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, and Czech Republic.

Avianca Cargo will provide cargo services through its Bogotá hub, at El Dorado International Airport with its passengers and cargo flights to and from most countries in Latin America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

The new route will commence with a Boeing 747-400 Freighter, offering a maximum capacity of 105 tonnes, with strong demand expected for transportation of raw materials, perishables, machinery parts, equipment, industrial consumables, and fashion goods.

Kevin Knight, Chief Strategy and Planning Officer at Etihad Airways, said: "Italy is the third largest cargo market in Europe, and has been a key focus area for Etihad Cargo since 2007, when we inaugurated our first service to the country. Demand has been strong and our operations have since expanded to include freighter and

passenger flights to Milan, and a daily passenger service between Rome and Abu Dhabi, launched in July this year.

“To date, Etihad Airways has carried almost 130,000 tonnes of cargo into and out of Italy, and we are delighted to build on this success with the launch of a new cargo route between Milan and Bogotá, operated in partnership with Avianca Cargo. This service provides a unique opportunity to tap into fast-growing traffic flows between Europe, South America and beyond.”

Victor Mejia, Cargo Vice President at Avianca, said: “This is a valuable opportunity to expand Avianca Cargo’s network, especially in moving perishable goods from the Americas that are highly demanded in Europe. At the same time, we would be strengthening our Cargo Hub operations in Bogota in order to provide quality cargo transportation to Europe throughout the region, with an extensive network that unites with our three hubs - Bogotá, Colombia; Lima, Peru; and San Salvador, El Salvador - allowing efficient load transfer through reliable, agile and synchronised operations.”