

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Twente Airport wants to prevent unnecessary relocation of Lufthansa jumbos and starts summary proceedings**

Enschede, 30 March 2021

**The Board of Twente Airport instituted summary proceedings against the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (ILT) in order to prevent the unnecessary and costly transfer of empty aircraft parked at Twente to another airport. The ILT has granted Twente Airport a temporary exemption for the departure of the six parked Lufthansa jumbos. This temporary exemption expires on 30 June next and ILT requires that the three Lufthansa Boeing 747s still parked there leave before that date. However, the parking contract runs until the end of June 2022. Lufthansa does not need the three aircraft by Covid and would have to store the three Jumbos at another airport by the requirement of the ILT. This premature relocation is unnecessary, does not contribute to flight safety and entails unnecessarily high costs for Twente Airport, because it would be a breach of contract, says Twente Airport.**

#### **Safety not compromised**

Twente Airport has asked the Inspectorate several times to postpone the date of 30 June until the end of the parking contract (June 2022), because the three aircraft can depart just as safely in a year's time as they did this year. However, the Aviation Inspectorate refers to the agreements made at the end of October 2020 when the first Lufthansa aircraft departed and wants to enforce those agreements in any case. Lufthansa let it be known at the end of October 2020 that it was making efforts to move the aircraft earlier, emphasizing at the time that it would *"not be able to do so before the end of June 2021."* The Aviation Inspectorate then unilaterally set this as the final date.

#### **High costs**

Lufthansa is forced to store the aircraft again for a long period of time, because they want to wait and see if and how fast the aviation industry recovers from the Covid crisis and whether they can use the aircraft again or would need to dismantle them. If Lufthansa has to park the aircraft elsewhere, it must unpack the packed aircraft, prepare them for flight and send them off to another airport to be repacked for deep storage.

Lufthansa is passing the bill for the relocation and the associated packing and unpacking costs on to Twente Airport, alleging a breach of contract. Including the loss of parking revenue until the end of June 2022, the losses incurred by Twente Airport could run up to more than €800,000. Lufthansa has already started work on the first aircraft and in a month they will start on the second one. Hence the urgent nature of summary proceedings. The sooner a ruling is made, the more unnecessary losses can be prevented.

#### **Unnecessary losses**

The Board of Technology Base, of which Twente Airport is a part, considers such a charge on public funds disproportionate. Only a court ruling at very short notice can prevent this.

Chairman of the Executive Board of Technology Base, Mr Jeroen Diepemaat: *"I regret that as a public organisation, we have to take another public organisation to court. But all things considered, we see no other solution to prevent major and unnecessary social losses. Nobody in Twente benefits from*

*this loss. This loss can easily be prevented if ILT is willing to leave the airplanes in deep storage until the end of the contract".*

**Investing in the future of Twente Airport**

Twente Airport wants to meet the requirements for landing and departure of large aircraft and therefore wants to reinforce the verges along the runway. We are currently performing a survey on how best to realise this, but it will take time and will certainly not be completed before the end of June.

Jan Schuring, Director Technology Base: *"Twente Airport would prefer to invest in safe infrastructure and in the future of the airport, than in unnecessary relocation costs of empty planes. The public cost of this is irresponsibly high. It is regrettable, but perfectly defensible that we ask the court for an independent balancing of interests".*

The date of the summary proceedings has not yet been set.