



Opening remarks
by the Director General of Hermes - Air Transport Organisation to the
2018 Hermes Leaders Forum
(Ekali, Greece - 2 March 2018)

Dear Friends, dear Hermes members,

Welcome to Ekali, it is a great pleasure to have you here. I am really happy and deeply honoured to have in our home so many important people of the air transport industry on the occasion of the First Hermes Leaders Forum. Hermes was founded five years ago, actually on the 17th March 2013 in Montreal, next to the Worldwide Air Transport Conference (AT Conf/6) of ICAO. Since then we have grown and can now boast 120 members from all sectors of the air transport industry. What changed over these five years is that we started as a club but we have evolved and that thanks to the Board that agreed to come onboard, we have managed to do great things. And that thanks to people, such as Robert Deillon, Vice President of Hermes, Vijay Poonoosamy, President of Hermes, Henrik Hololei, Angela Gittens and Jeff Poole, which means and shows that we cover all areas of the air transport industry chain. We have decided to move forward and to change and become a Non-profit Organisation seated in Montreal. The legal procedure will be very soon finalised and we will be able to share the good news with you.

One of the main reasons behind the founding and continuous existence of Hermes is to contribute to the evolution of air transport and this is why we have this forum today. The aim is not to organise another event, perhaps we have too many events around the globe; what we want is to contribute. Hermes is the human capital of the industry, the people that work in the industry. Hermes represents the air transport industry as an organisation of people.

Therefore, we decided with Henrik and we spent six months to organise and I would like to thank all speakers and participants that decided to come to Athens to start something that I would dare name “a new era for aviation” in order to be able to contribute to the future of aviation and make recommendations that can improve the air transport industry. In 2014 we celebrated one hundred years of commercial aviation. Hermes co-hosted with ICAO an event to celebrate the centenary of commercial aviation to make a presentation of the book. The book was written by Hermes in partnership with the major aviation organisations, ICAO, ACI, CANSO and IATA.

I need to thank the sponsors of this event, Athens International Airport, Goldair Handling and Ekali Club.

Let me now talk a bit about the topic of this forum. As you very well know, we are going to talk about “Ownership and Control in the air transport industry”. Philip Cornelis will deliver the keynote address. We have two moderators, Professor Papatheodorou and John Hanlon who, together with Robert Deillon and me will prepare the conclusions of this forum. I would like to ask the participants who represent air transport organisations to prepare a position paper on this topic.

Hermes will start this month to publish a magazine and would like to invite you to contribute with articles on this topic. The second leg of this effort is to have a team of experts who based on the conclusions of this forum, the position papers and the articles you will contribute that will draw the final recommendation for the air transport industry. This recommendation will be distributed to all



parties. Next year we plan to have our second forum at the same venue and we are all welcomed to make suggestions about the topic to be discussed and analysed. That is the idea of Hermes and what we want to achieve: to help the industry move forward. We are open to your ideas not only about the forum but on any issue you consider critical for the progress of the industry. You know very well that we have close cooperation with all key organisations. In a ceremony held at ICAO Headquarters during the 39th Triennial Assembly of ICAO, we, Hermes, named Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, President of the Council of ICAO, Honorary Member of the Organisation. Over the last years we have participated actively in all major events of the industry and cohosted receptions with IATA and ACI as part of our effort to bring together all sectors of the industry.

Thank you again for your participation.