



**Opening remarks**  
**by the Director General of Hermes - Air Transport Organisation to the**  
**Hermes reception in the IATA AGM**  
(Sydney, Australia - 3 June 2018)

Dear Hermes members,

I would like to welcome you to the Hermes reception. It is the third year we are organising this event next to the IATA AGM and would like to thank Paul Steele for the honour to allow Hermes to host the participants the first day and first afternoon before the official opening of the AGM. Many people from all sectors of the transport industry attend this welcoming reception and it a great honour and pleasure for us. We would like also to thank Hahn Air for sponsoring this welcome reception.

There are many things I would like to share with my Board, Angela Gittens, Jeff Poole, Henrik Hololei are here with me today.

Over the last year we have made a lot of things and I would like to share some with you and I will talk to you about the rest in two weeks' time when we have another reception in ACI World Assembly in Brussels, Belgium and we would be delighted to see you there too. We would like also to thank ACI that allows to host the event.

But apart from having a networking reception, we, at the board, have decided to move forward and take some new initiatives. As you have probably already seen, we have a magazine and some of the people attending this reception have contributed to the first issue. The second issue will be out in July and this magazine will be published every three months. ACI, ICAO and IATA have helped us by allowing us to use the statistics, data and figures seen in the magazine. The another initiative we have started is "The Leaders' Forum"; the first took place in Ekali in March with the topic "Ownership and Control in Aviation" and it is very critical to be able to discuss and analyse topics that are crucial for the industry. The other issue I would like to discuss with you is that we will to come up with recommendations on issues that Board thinks are of interest to the industry. Even though Hermes cannot act, we want to contribute and we, as we have the possibility to have the "leaders", the elite members of the industry", we think it will be beneficial to give recommendations for and to the industry in an attempt to help the industry and all concerned organisations to move forward. We hope that by the end of the year we will be able to come up with a recommendation on the topic "Ownership and Control in Aviation". We will very soon, most probably in the summer, have a new website.

These are the news we have to share with you for the moment here in Sydney. I would like to thank you all on behalf of the board for being here and spending time with us.