



## PRESS RELEASE

# **EBAA France warns of the decline of French aviation and its impact on regional economies**

**Paris, October 16, 2026** - EBAA France represents the business aviation ecosystem in France, encompassing aircraft operators, airport activities, aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and training.

Following the warning issued on 8 October by FNAM and IATA about French air transport falling behind, EBAA France is also sounding the alarm over the weakening position of French business aviation operators.

Data from the French Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) show a sustained decline in business aviation activity by French operators: **-20% in the third quarter of 2025, -14% in the fourth quarter of 2025, -20% in the first quarter of 2026 and -11% in the second quarter of 2026**. Some French companies have scaled back or even ceased operations. Meanwhile, foreign operators' share of business aviation activity in France rose from **86% in early 2025 to 91% by mid-2026**.

Since March 2025, the solidarity tax on airline tickets (TSBA) applicable to business aviation in France can reach **€2,100 per passenger**. This tax burden comes amid particularly challenging economic and geopolitical conditions. The conflict in the Middle East has led to a sharp rise in jet fuel costs and disrupted flight operations to the region.

**As part of the budget debate, EBAA France therefore calls for a reassessment of the effectiveness and level of this taxation, in light of its impact on French operators' competitiveness, employment and regional connectivity.**

Business aviation contributes to regional connectivity through a network of regional airports linking economic centres that are sometimes far from major hubs or inadequately served by scheduled flights.

These airports accommodate a range of activities: business and industrial travel, medical and government missions, as well as aircraft maintenance and related services, all of which contribute to local economic activity and employment.

**These concerns extend beyond industry associations.** In his report on the implementation of tax measures, published on 23 September, Philippe Juvin, General Rapporteur for the Budget at the French National Assembly, describes the situation in business aviation as "severely deteriorated". He calls for particular attention to the sector, given the consequences of its tax treatment and the limited benefit to public finances.

The weakening position of French operators and regional airports thus raises a broader question: **how to retain activity, jobs, skills and regional connectivity in France.**

**Charles Aguetant, President of EBAA France, said:**

“We must now look at the outcomes of aviation taxation, not just its rates. When French operators account for 9% of business aviation activity in our country, this raises a real issue of national sovereignty.

“Business aviation goes beyond business travel: it also performs essential missions, including medical transport, medical evacuations and organ transport. **If we allow French operators to disappear, we risk losing control over strategic aviation capabilities and becoming dependent on foreign operators to carry out these public-interest missions.**

“This is not about exempting business aviation from contributing to the budgetary effort, but about advocating effective, proportionate taxation that is compatible with the competitiveness of our businesses, employment and regional connectivity. **The question is simple: What kind of aviation do we want to retain the ability to operate independently in France in the years ahead?”**

#### **2027 Finance Bill: EBAA France calls for a review of aviation tax levels**

---

The parliamentary debate must provide an opportunity to draw lessons from the reform that came into force in 2025. EBAA France calls for:

- **A reversal of the TSBA increase introduced on 1 March 2025**, to preserve the competitiveness of the business aviation sector and the jobs it supports.
- **A review of tax levels applicable to non-scheduled air transport**, taking into account the economic realities of operations and public finance requirements.
- **An assessment of the cumulative impact of taxation on operators, infrastructure and aviation activities**, to ensure that the measures adopted do not drive the activity they seek to tax out of France.

#### **ABOUT EBAA FRANCE**

EBAA France represents the business aviation ecosystem in France: aircraft operators, airport activities, aircraft manufacturing, maintenance and training. The sector supports 101,500 direct and indirect jobs across 500 companies and organisations. Business aviation operates to or from 261 French airports, helping connect regions and bring decision-making centres closer to production sites across the country.

<https://ebaafrance.org/>

**Press contact: GroupExpression**

Odile Genetet – +33 (0)6 73 31 02 24

[ebaafranceGE@groupeexpression.fr](mailto:ebaafranceGE@groupeexpression.fr)