

Report:

AACC coordinates High-Level Meeting with the CEO of Vienna International Airport to discuss the re-establishment of direct flight connections between Libya and Austria

22 May 2023 – Vienna, Austria



On Monday 22 May 2023, the **Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC)** coordinated a high-level meeting with the CEO of Vienna Airport (Flughafen Wien AG) **Mag. Julian Jäger**, the Ambassador of the State of Libya to Austria **His Excellency Dr. Osama Abdulhadi**, the Vienna Business Location Advocate and Deputy Managing Director of the Vienna Chamber of Commerce & Industry **Dr. Alexander Biach** and AACC Secretary General **DI Mouddar Khouja**, to discuss the re-establishment of direct flight connections between Libya and Austria.

The meeting was also attended by **Ms. Belina Neumann**, Vice President Aviation Department; **Mr. Sebastian Wolf**, Director Route Development MEA, Eastern & South Asia Aviation Department; **Mr. Stefan Ehrengruber**, Senior Manager Airport Charges Aviation Development from Vienna International Airport (Flughafen Wien AG); as well as by **Mr. Essa Essa**, Minister and **Mr. Esam Ganbour**, Counselor at the Embassy of the State of Libya in Vienna.

His Excellency Dr. Osama Abdulhadi passed the word to the Secretary General **Eng. Mouddar Khouja** who welcomed all participants and introduced the AACC's initiative to enhance the relations and connect Austria and the Arab countries by introducing the profile and operational plan of the Libyan flight operator "**Medsky Airways**".

Medsky Airways is already operating flights between Libya and some European countries by aircrafts that are registered in the EU, and in cooperation with European airlines. Therefore, the legal basis for implementing flight routes with Vienna International Airport and other airports in Austria would be given, the **Secretary General** explained and added that this would open new aspects for touristic, business and diplomatic purposes beneficial for both, Libya and Austria. He informed as well that he has been receiving inquiries and confirmation of interest from leading Austrian companies and Libyan enterprises and institutions for flights between the two capitals Tripoli – Vienna.

Support for this plan comes also from the official Libyan side represented by **H.E. Ambassador Dr. Abdulhadi**, as well as from the General Libyan Union of Chambers of Commerce, represented by its President **Mr. Mohammed Raied** in the Board of Directors of the Austro-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

Speaking as the official Business Location Advocate for Vienna, **Dr. Alexander Biach** strongly welcomed AACC's initiative by indicating the huge potential for the city and region of Vienna, to establish itself as a hub in Central Europe for passengers traveling to or from Libya.

The CEO of Vienna International Airport **Mag. Julian Jäger** too received the initiative with great interest, and added that this plan would open new perspectives for the Vienna International Airport. After a detailed presentation of the airport's portfolio, he and his team further informed about the legal aspects, official treaties and a Memorandum of Understanding between Libya and Austria in this context. As a next step, the Libyan Ministry of Transport should be informed to designate Medsky for operating flights to Vienna, Mr. Jäger and his team concluded.



The meeting participants agreed on a follow-up after consultation with the Libyan Ministry of Transport, as well as with the representatives of Medsky Airways.