

*Inauguration of the JTI smokers lounge - 17 March 2007*

## **Statement by M. Robert DEILLON, General Manager of Geneva International Airport**

### **1. Press conference (11:00)**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

In December 2005, Geneva International Airport took the decision to implement a new, more consistent and more stringent policy on smoke in public areas of the Airport. This required in particular the creation of a single smoking lounge in transit, and, after that, progressive elimination of all other smoking areas, while being aware that, in the transit area, passengers do not have the possibility of leaving the building.

A project group for the application of this policy was set up, and it contacted tobacco manufacturers interested in a partnership. At the beginning of 2007, the JTI company was selected and an agreement was signed with a view to opening the "smoking lounge" in March 2008.

That has now been done, with the inauguration this very day of this magnificent piece of infrastructure. This is a lounge reserved for smokers, providing comfort, light and design, and built in a style that is both restrained and elegant. Because of the purpose of the lounge, the latest ventilation and air purification technologies have been used and very conclusive quality tests have already been carried out.

Thanks to excellent collaboration with the JTI company, which thus marks its attachment to the city of its headquarters, Geneva Airport now has installations for smokers worthy of its ambitions and comparable with the best airports in this domain. Even though GVA will continue to be very strict in these matters, this service will also offer travellers from the region and, above all, the very numerous foreign visitors an image of tolerance and respect both for smokers and for non-smokers. The latter will henceforth be entirely protected from passive smoke in every part of the airport, in conformity with the current trend and in particular in the spirit of the recent vote in the Canton of Geneva.

### **2. Inauguration ceremony (11:45)**

Dear Mr. Shingai,  
Dear Partners,  
Dear Colleagues and Staff of JTI and GVA,

After some two years of discussions, preparation and construction, I have the privilege of presenting to you today a magnificent piece of infrastructure, which is unquestionably a part of our Airport's efforts to provide its clients with a quality service.

This superb smoking lounge, which is both restrained, fashionable and elegant, will offer our smoking passengers undeniable peace and comfort, while finally eliminating passive smoke for our non-smoking clients.

I wish particularly to thank our partner, the JTI company, which is highlighting through this collaboration its strong attachment to Geneva. We have had an opportunity to appreciate its professionalism and its feeling for image and customer service at every stage of this joint achievement. Today, the result meets expectations and is also the beginning of a whole series of changes that will make GVA a completely renewed gateway in the months to come.

Thank you for your attention.