The Spotter's Journal

N° 11 – June 2007

Index

General News	1
Luxair LX-LGV sold	1
Télévie “Stärevol”	2
President Putin Visit	2
Maldivian Air Taxi	3
Logbook	5
Seen at ELLX	5

General News

- 01.05.2007: Two Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747, TF-AMC and TF-ATJ, arrived for a maintenance check.

- 05.05.2007: Cargolux Boeing 747-400, LX-NCV, arrived in Amsterdam-Schipol for a complete D Check. LX-NCV returned on 3rd June in new Cargolux livery.

- 10.05.2007: Luxair LX-LGO (Boeing 737-500), sold in December 2006 to Jordan Aviation as JY-JA1, was spotted on 23rd April 2007 at Luton Airport as SU-KHM now wearing Alexandria Airlines colors.

- 31.05.2007: Luxembourg’s first De Havilland Canadair Dash-Q8-400, LX-LGA, arrived today in Luxembourg, flying from Toronto via Keflavik. Last week it was still wearing the Canadian registration C-FLKX. *(Photos in the next Edition)*

A Hairy Visitor from Belgium

© MULCAHY Vivion

Very surprisingly this Airbus A320-214 from Thomas Cook Airlines (OO-TCJ) arrived on 6th May 2007 with this “hairy” design. Written on the aircraft is “Kamargurka Hairlines”.

New Silk Way Ilyushin IL-76

© MULCAHY Vivion

It has been several years since we last saw this rare beauty at Luxembourg Airport. This brand new Silk Way Ilyushin Il-76TD-90VD, 4K-AZ100, is a stretched version with new engines.

Luxair Embraer ERJ-145, LX-LGV, has been sold

© MORO Mike

© MORO Mike

As announced last year by Luxair, they planned to sell 2 Embraer ERJ-145 (LX-LGV & LX-LG?) and 2 ERJ-135 (LX-LGK & LX-LGL) in 2007. On 20th March 2007 the first of 4 Embraer left Luxembourg Airport via Keflavik to the United States. LX-LGV, Embraer EMB-145LU, was delivered on 22nd April 1999 to Luxair. The aircraft was sold to an US Owner. 2 weeks later, on 4th April 2007, the aircraft was spotted at Nashville International Airport. It was still wearing Luxair colors but already had its new registration N138DE.

Télévie “Stäreflich” on 1st May 2007 (Photos by MORO Kevin)

For this year’s charity event “Télévie” Luxair offered several flights with their Embraers for a different sightseeing over Luxembourg. The flights were performed on 1st May 2007. Departing at 13.00, my brother had the lucky chance to get into the cockpit of LX-LGX and stayed there for the whole flight which turned out to be 60 minutes long instead of 30 minutes, because of a navigation mistake. For once this delay was appreciated by the passengers.

Official Visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin

On 24th May 2007 Russia’s President Putin arrived for an official State Visit. From 23rd to 24th he was in Austria, and flew directly from Vienna to Luxembourg. At about 11:30 he arrived in one of the Ilyushin Il-96 (RA-96012 & RA-96016), which were followed by an Ilyushin Il-62 (RA-86466). He was accompanied by his wife and a 250 member strong delegation. Already on 20.05 an Il-76 arrived to bring the Presidents cars and motorcycles.
Very high security measures were put in place around the airport and in the city itself, which of course led to a lot of traffic problems. 700 Luxemburgish police officer and Putin's own security personnel were deployed to guarantee maximum security. In addition the NOTAM prohibited all VFR flights (including Touch & Go’s) north of the airport between 10:00 and 19:00.

© MOUSEL Tom

RA-96016, Ilyushin Il-96

© MULCAHY Vivion

RA-96012, Ilyushin Il-96

© MORO Mike

RA-78830, Ilyushin Il-76

© PEREZ Emmanuel

RA-86466, Ilyushin Il-62

Sun Express 757 with winglets

© PEREZ Emmanuel

Usually SunExpress use one of their Boeing 737-800 for the morning flight but on 22nd May they used their Boeing 757-200, TC-RND, with winglets.

Greece Air Force Spartan C-27

© MULCAHY Vivion

Nice surprise. During midday this Alenia C-27J Spartan, 4121, from the Greece Air Force arrived for a short stopover in Luxembourg.

Seaplanes at the Maldives – Part 1 (by Serge Braun)

During this year's holiday at the Maldives, I had the opportunity to visit both resident AIR TAXI operators: T.M.A. (Trans Maldivian Airways) and M.A.T. (Maldivian Air Taxi). Both companies have their Terminal at the main Airport Island HULULE, just opposite of the Male International Airport (MLE / VRMM).

© BRAUN Serge

Maldivian Air Taxi

© BRAUN Serge

Trans Maldivian Airways

Trans Maldivian Airways were established in 1989 and flew at that time under the name "Hummingbird", using Sikorsky S-61 and Mil Mi-8 helicopter, to fly tourists to their Island Resorts.
After a tragic crash in 1994 with several casualties, Maldivian Government banned the use of helicopters. Therefore TMA started using DHC-6 Twin Otters with fitted floats. During my visit, the fleet was composed of 16 aircrafts, all in their new colored white-blue-yellow livery. TMA flies to 25 different Resorts situated at the North- and South-Male Atoll, Ari-Atoll, Baa-Atoll and Lhaviyani Atoll. The length of the flight routes vary between 15 and 50 minutes. Fortunately I was lucky and was allowed to travel with one of their aircrafts to Helengeli at the North-Male Atoll. A great experience.

© BRAUN Serge

© BRAUN Serge

© BRAUN Serge

Seaplanes at the Maldives – Part 2 (by Serge Braun)

Maldivian Air Taxi was created in 1993 by the Danish Businessman Lars Erik Nielsen. Instead of letting tourists endure a several hour long boat transfer, during which every passenger gets sick, Nielson imagined that a flight would be much more comfortable, and realized his project. He borrowed a Cessna Caravan and a DHC-6 Twin Otter from the Canadian Kenn Borek Air and transferred tourist with his new AIR TAXI to their paradise islands.

His company was growing very fast and became the largest Seaplane operator worldwide. Today he flies with 22 Twin Otter to 30 different Island resorts. If needed, during high tourist season, Kenn Borek Air still flies the rented aircrafts for M.A.T. from Canada (via Europe) to Male in 60 hours.
During my visit M.A.T. was showing two novelties. The first one was 8Q-MAD *(right photo)* wearing a special MALDIVES HILTON livery and the second one was 8Q-MAT *(bottom left photo)* with a VIP interior including 8 leather seats and a golden Cheatline.

© BRAUN Serge

© BRAUN Serge

© BRAUN Serge

© BRAUN Serge

Concluding I want to thank the responsible persons of the two airlines for their excellent hospitality and kindness I experienced.

Luxembourg's Logbook: Passenger and Cargo Visitors

29.04.2007	OO-TUI	Jetair (TUI Airlines Belgium)	Boeing 737-4K5
01.05.2007	TF-AMC	Saudi Arabian Airlines Cargo	Boeing 747-2B3F/SCD
	TF-ATJ	Saudi Arabian Airlines Cargo	Boeing 747-341
	HB-ZDR	Swift Copters	Eurocopter AS-365N-3 Dauphin 2
05.05.2007	UR-VYV	Baltika	Antonov An-26-100
06.05.2007	UR-CBF	Aerovis Airlines	Antonov An-12A
	OO-TCJ	Thomas Cook Airlines	Airbus A320-214
	9G-MKU	MK Airlines Cargo	Boeing 747-249F/SCD
	4X-AXM	El Al Israel Airlines Cargo	Boeing 747-2B5B(SF)
10.05.2007	4K-AZ100	Silk Way Airlines	Ilyushin 76TD-90VD
	63-186	Turkish Air Force	Lockheed C-130 Hercules
	63-3188	Turkish Air Force	Lockheed C-130 Hercules
	TF-NPA	City Star Airlines	Fairchild Dornier 328JET-300
13.05.2007	VP-BID	Air Bridge Cargo	Boeing 747-281F/SCD
20.05.2007	D-CAVA	European Air Express	Fairchild Swearingen SA-227AC Metro III
22.05.2007	4121	Greece Air Force	Alenia C-27A Spartan
	D-CPRW	Excellent Air	Dornier 328-110
	CC 292	France Air Force	De Havilland Canada DHC-6-300 Twin Otter
	HB-FOQ	Lions Air	Pilatus PC-12/45
	TC-SND	SunExpress	Boeing 757-2Q8
24.05.2007	PH-ATM	Wooning Aviation	Beech Super King Air 200
	RA-09006	Gasprom	Dassault Falcon 900EX
	D-FIBI	Untitled	Pilatus PC-12/47
	63-3189	Turkey Air Force	Lockheed C-130E Hercules (L-382)
	P4-AIR	Sistema (Russia)	Mc Douglas MD-87
30.05.2007	PH-EVY	Solid Air	Dornier Do-328-120
31.05.2007	LX-LGA	Luxair	De Havilland Canada DHC-8-402Q Dash 8

Seen at Luxembourg Airport

© MULCAH Vivion

Gasprom, RA-09006, Dassault Falcon 900EX

© BINDER Ray

Turkey Air Force, 63-13189, C-130E Hercules

© MORO Mike

European Air Express, D-CAVA, Swearingen Metro

© MULCAH Vivion

Swift Copters, HB-ZDR, Eurocopter Dauphin 2

© PEREZ Emmanuel

Excellent Air, D-CPRW, Dornier 328-110

© PEREZ Emmanuel

France Air Force, CC 292, DHC-6-300 Twin Otter

© PEREZ Emmanuel

Solid Air, PH-EVY, Dornier Do-328-120

Editor: Mike Moro
E-mail: spottersjournal@mikemoro.com
http://aviation.mikemoro.com

In cooperation with: BeLuxSpot
(http://beluxspot.forumactif.com)