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PRESS RELEASE

Successful completion of an evacuation exercise at Larnaka International Airport

Aiming to define the preparedness level and the coordination of all the relevant departments during an emergency situation, Hermes Airports in cooperation with the Civil Aviation Department, the Police and all the competent services, held an evacuation exercise at Larnaka International Airport, on Thursday, December 4, 2014.

According to the scenario of the exercise, the airport initially received via phone, a dual bomb threat, both against an aircraft which was preparing for takeoff, and against the premises of Larnaka Airport.

The exercise scenario envisaged that that the telephone threats were real which consequently lead to a detonation of an explosive device which was hidden in the departures area of the airport. As a result, all the competent authorities of the State and the airport are immediate mobilized for a direct management of the emergency situation and the coordination of the various security forces and rescue services. The Emergency Coordination Centre ordered to extinguish a small fire which broke out in the departure area, the evacuation of citizens sited in the area and the provision of first aid to injured persons.

Afterwards, the competent authorities ordered the immediate and complete evacuation of both, the terminal building and the aircraft. The detection of a second explosive device lead to a controlled triggering and into a thorough inspection of the departure area, before allowing the public to return to the terminal.

The following services were actively involved in the exercise: Civil Aviation Department, Airport Police Security, Police Headquarters Pyrotechnics, Police Dog Division (K9), Aliens and Immigration Unit, Fire Service of Larnaka Airport, Control Tower, Cyprus Airways, Larnaka General Hospital, Ground Handling Companies (Swissport and LGS Handling), CTC-ARI, Cyprus Airports Food & Beverage, S&L and Volunteers.

Organizers: Hermes Airports - Civil Aviation Department, Airport Police Security.

The exercise was conducted in accordance with the regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Department of Civil Aviation of the Republic of Cyprus.





