



ULUSLARARASI TEMSİL IFALPA BELGESİ

Belge: 17 Ekim 2012

Tarih: 31.10.2012

Kaynak: IFALPA haberleri · talpa.org



Wednesday 17 October 2012

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Air France restructures management

Air France's management is getting a facelift as of 1 January 2013. Under the new structure, the airline will be divided into eight separate business units, with a different vice president for each division.

The units include long-haul, medium-haul at Paris-CDG, Paris-Orly and the regional airports, the French Regional Hub, Transavia France, cargo, industrial operations, and Servair.

The reform is part of Air France's Transform 2015 plan, expected to save €2 billion over the next three years. The plan is expected to result in 5,000 redundancies.

The new plan will be presented to the carrier's unions in December before implementation in January.

Alliances seek cooperation with low-cost airlines

At the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) global education conference in Rome this week, participants were advised to expect further integration and cooperation between no-frills carriers and global airline alliances over the next few years.

Skyteam vice-president Mauro Oretti expressed a need to find a way to benefit both customers and the airlines. One solution may be to examine new ways to deal with alliances, including the concept of the "hybrid low-cost carrier".

"Hybrid low-cost carriers are those who can see the value of co-operating without alliance without adding the complexity that they don't want to see - their business model needs simplicity," Oretti said.