

> **euroAtlantic acquires another B757 and takes fleet to ten planes**

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euroAtlantic, the company owned by its chairman and founder, Tomaz Metello and by the Pestana Group, strengthened its fleet with another Boeing B757-200 for long-haul flights. It now has a total of ten aircraft.



Since the start of this month this is the second plane to join the euroAtlantic fleet after the company bought from TAP a Lockheed L1011 which was part of the White fleet (click to read: "TAP sells Lockheed to euroAtlantic").

A euroAtlantic communiqué says that the new B757-200 came about from a contract with the leasing company GATX Corp.

Tomaz Metello, cited in the communiqué, says that "euroAtlantic and Gatx, the entity with whom we've been working in recent years, have sealed a good deal", adding that the Portuguese company "euroAtlantic has gained greater flexibility with another B757-200" which he describes as "a profitable plane on medium and long-haul operations which is going to make a major contribution to increasing exports from the country".

euroAtlantic acts on the ACMI markets (hire of planes with crew, maintenance and insurance) and charters (operations contracted by operators), having achieved operating revenue of 125.74 million euros and profits of 10.47 million last year, a year in which it was the company with the most charters contracted from Lisbon, to wit to Brazil, through the joint venture it had with Varig

This year euroAtlantic is out of the charter market for Portuguese operators, but its chairman has stressed that this activity segment is a "niche", as its main business is on the ACMI. In late May euroAtlantic announced the signing of a commercial agreement with GOL, who this year purchased VRG (which resulted from the autonomisation of the operational side of VRG, sold at auction), to provide a Boeing B767-300 ER, raising to three the number of planes in the service of the Brazilian company.

In the communiqué given yesterday about strengthening the fleet with another B757, Tomaz Metello announced that the expansion plan for 2007 had been met, but that the company is still "watching the market every day" and "should any further business opportunities arise, we will always be ready to review strategies".

euroAtlantic "is ready to face new challenges and reflects the confidence of the international market in national companies", the communiqué goes on, saying that euroAtlantic currently has two Lockheed L1011-500, two Boeing B757-200 and six Boeing B767-300ER.