



> euroAtlantic starts Lisbon-Havana connection on July 25

Lisbon, July 23, 2008

**euroAtlantic airways (EAA)** begins, on July 25, 2008, a weekly charter connection between the two Iberian-American capitals, with stopover in Oporto. The beginning of the regular flights is a process followed with great interest by Cuban authorities and is programmed for the current year. **The Chairman of EAA's Board of Administration, Tomás Metello**, comments this announcement in the following manner "the beginning of this operation by our **Tour Operator (TO) Sonhando, terraCuba** program, reflects the wish for a closer relationship between Portuguese and Cuban interests". "A process we began in late January, at the time of the work visit of the Cuban Minister of Tourism, Manuel Marrero, to Lisbon, at our invitation". "Since then, we have taken many steps; euroAtlantic and Cubana de Aviacion have established commercial relationships with our partner Grupo Pestana (hotels), sent a mission to Cuba. The TO Sonhando, our distribution area, that is now proud to announce the launch of this new program". "The enthusiasm and the commitment of Sonhando's CEO, Eduardo Pinto Lopes, and of Cuba's Tourism authorities have been most important. The *terraCuba* brand image rapidly became known in the national holidays lexicon". "I would also like to point out and leave a very special word of appreciation to the Cuban Ambassador in Lisbon, Jorge Castro. When we have the opportunity to cross paths with enterprising diplomats with corporate political vision the relationships bloom, economical partnerships benefit and investment opportunities develop that bring value to both jobs exchanges". "Ambassador Castro has often mentioned that one of the main goals of his mission in Portugal was the establishment of an air connection between Lisbon and Havana".

**euroAtlantic airways** assigned to the Lisbon-Oporto-Havana route a Boeing 767 equipment. The stopover in Oporto is the answer to an excellent demand for programs from travel agencies in North Portugal and Galicia that, until now, only had Madrid as a possible destination, reason sufficient for **Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport** to support the operation that results in greater ease for the consumers in Galicia. The company held by **Tomás Metello** and **Grupo Pestana** - through the company **Companhia Ibérica de Turismo Global - CITG** - holds shareholder control of the **Tour Operator Sonhando**. The **EAA** also controls 100% of the network of **Intervisa Travel Agencies**. **euroAtlantic's** flight (**MMZ6651**) leaves Lisbon at 00:05 p.m. and arrives at Oporto at 1:05 p.m., taking off for Havana at 2:35 p.m., landing at around 11:59 p.m. The return from Havana (**MMZ6652**) is at 02:00 a.m. with stopover in Oporto at 11:53 a.m., arriving at Lisbon at around 00:45 p.m. For the near future are also planned flights for Galicia, Madrid and Paris.

**For further information:**

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