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"Conflicting forces are impacting European airports. While capacity is strained at some key hubs, many outlying regional airports are underutilised due to lack of population in the catchment area and to increasing competition with high-speed rail."

This report looks at the following areas:

- Will there be a capacity crunch at Europe's main airport hubs?
- · Are there too many small airports in Europe?
- · How will the newly promulgated EU regulation on subsidies affect the airport sector?
- Will the massive build-up of airport capacity in the Arab Gulf take share from Europe's main bubs?
- Will the further spread of high-speed rail reduce air travel in Europe?
- Will the restrictions on carrying liquids in hand luggage be lifted by 2016?

This report provides an update about European airports, including developments relating to safety and security. Small airports in Europe are being squeezed by overcapacity, competition with high-speed rail and a tightening of EU regulations for government subsidisation. Hence they are often lossmaking and risk being closed due to EU regulations, which are placing restrictions on public funding of airports. Meanwhile, most major European hubs are operating at or near capacity and will have to expand to meet future demand. However, such expansion projects are often opposed by citizens' groups and ecologists, which could result in a 'capacity crunch' at major European airports in the coming decade. On the other hand, the growth of mega-hubs in the Arab Gulf states is a competitive threat to be reckoned with for the sector.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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What Next?

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Competition with high-speed rail

Competition from expanding Gulf airports



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