



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **CASPIAN POTENTIAL WAITING TO BE UNLOCKED**

**Coyne Airways' director calls for an open business environment in Central Asia at the Caspian Air Cargo Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan.**

**London, UK, Wednesday 30th October 2013** - Customs red tape and costly airport charges are hampering potential in countries around the Caspian Sea, according to Liana Coyne, director, Coyne Airways.

She told delegates at the Caspian Air Cargo Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday, that there were plenty of opportunities in the region, but that it could be a difficult environment to operate in.

"We sometimes experience a series of frustrating obstacles that make doing business here expensive," she said.

"Traffic rights can be an issue.

"And airport costs are sometimes baffling and exorbitant."

She added that airports in the area could learn a lot from Coyne's Caspian hub, Tbilisi, in neighbouring Georgia, from where Coyne operates services to 14 destinations in the region.

"Tbilisi is the beneficiary of its open policy," she said.

"It has a good Customs regime, reasonable airport costs, and doing business is easy.

"The downside is too much capacity."

Coyne said her wish list for the region would include fewer restrictions on flight permissions, more transparency in airport charges, a reduction in transit charges for trucking, a reduction in Customs red tape and other restrictions in line with World Customs Organisation (WCO) guidelines, and investment in infrastructure.

Coyne Airways, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, was invited to join a panel on the oil and gas industry and air cargo in the CIS, part of the three-day Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2013, organised by Euroavia International and Silk Way Airlines.

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#### About Coyne

Coyne Airways is an all-cargo airline based in London, UK, with a separate operation in Dubai, UAE, from where it serves all Gulf destinations with connections from North America, Europe, and Asia via a large network of interline partners. It operates scheduled cargo flights to Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Iraq, and the UAE, using Antonov, Boeing, and Ilyshin aircraft, as required. Coyne Airways, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, provides reliable and secure scheduled cargo services to some of the world's most difficult to reach destinations, and has pioneered routes into the Caucasus, Central Asia, the oil and gas rich Sakhalin Island, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In 2012, Coyne spread its wings to Africa, working with regional partners to link the Middle East, North America, and Europe with a number of African destinations. Coyne also provides charter services into the areas it serves with scheduled services.

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