

PRESS RELEASE

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SAS subsidiary Blue1 traffic halted, pilots walk out

Blue1 Pilots' Association will stop all traffic during a walkout scheduled between 05:00-12:00am Finnish time on Sep 7.

The walkout is meant as a protest against the personnel policies adopted by the management of Blue1 during co-operation negotiations which were concluded in August 2011.

A valid collective agreement was opened and renegotiated by the company and the Pilots' Association in summer 2010, at the insistence of management. The new five year agreement included such deteriorations as lowered wages and a more modest pay scale. In return for these compromises the pilots were promised job security throughout the validity period of the agreement as well as a guarantee against outsourcing of labor. A large part of Blue1 traffic is currently being operated by outsourced labor and an outside airline, Swedish based Golden Air, which operates a turboprop fleet.

Concurrently Blue1 will make a third of its pilots redundant. Blue1 Pilots' Association cannot comprehend how SAS can allow their subsidiary in Finland to operate in a way which would be considered reprehensible in other Scandinavian countries.

Staff at the airline feels like management have betrayed their promise.

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