

NEWSFLASH!

AIR FRANCE PLANS "SOLIDARITY STRIKES" WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS

Travel Resources received news today that **Air France staff will join striking British Airways workers by calling a three-day "solidarity strike"**. We will be contacting our clients who may be affected by this action to provide them with assistance in securing alternate flight arrangements.

Air France cabin crews have called for a three day walkout to coincide with the second batch of British Airways strikes on March 28. The French unions have come out in sympathy for their UK counterparts, while also protesting over planned job cuts by their own airline. **Six trade unions are organizing walk-outs in France for three days from March 28** to protest against changes to working conditions on short and medium-haul flights over the summer tourist season.

The run up to Easter could be even more chaotic than expected, with Portuguese pilots due to walk out from March 26 to 31.

Unite has also gained support from Teamsters, the transport union in the US, after visiting its Washington headquarters yesterday. Trade unions in 123 countries representing cabin crew, pilots, ground staff, baggage handlers and air traffic controllers are ready to support the British Airways strikers.

Meanwhile, British Airways tried to improve the situation by announcing that it would be running more flights than expected during the strikes. British Airways claims up to 1,000 employees have offered to stand in for those who strike, and expects that number to rise further. It said it would carry 49,000 passengers a day rather than 45,000 during the first stoppage after more of its staff volunteered to work.

The airline said it was "pleased" the number of other airlines offering to help fly passengers during the strike had increased from 50 on Monday to more than 60. British Airways has secured more seats and aircraft for the three-day walkout, enabling it to reinstate some of the cancelled services, including a flight from Vancouver, which will bring home competitors and supporters from the Winter Paralympics in Vancouver.

Should you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Selina Johnston directly at:

Selina Johnston
905-480-9986
selinaj@travelresources.net