



## Frequent Flyer news released on July 15, 2009

State-owned Greek carrier *Olympic Airlines* will be liquidated on September 30. There will be a private successor company, *Olympic Air*, at its place. It is, however, kind of surprising that it will not honour balances of the current Frequent Flyer Program **Icarus**, what means that all outstanding points need to be cashed in by the end of September or will become worthless otherwise. The plans of the new Olympic Air at the level of the Frequent Flyer Program are not yet known.

How much the air transportation market has changed in the US has been demonstrated once again these days: The financially healthy Republic Airways Holdings, which owns three regional airlines flying among others for United and Delta, takes control of *Frontier Airlines* and *Midwest Airlines*, which might have not survived anymore for a very long time without that deal. The two airlines will keep their identities, but will be brought closer together at a strategic level nevertheless. This includes also a partnership between the Frequent Flyer Programs **EarlyReturns** and **Midwest Miles**, probably as of September.

India and hence its fast growing airlines suffer more from the current crisis than many others. While mainly business travellers fly less in other markets, this is also true for leisure travellers in India. And now it is time for frequent flyers to benefit of it: Through August 14, members of the **King Club** receive incredible quintuple miles on all flights worldwide of *Kingfisher Airlines* - however on weekends only. One Business Class roundtrip from London to India results like that, as an example, in enough miles for an award flight in Economy Class from Europe to South America or Far East on one of the partners of the program such as *Air France*, *KLM*, *Emirates* or *Qatar Airways*.

We mentioned the new offer by *Sixt*, which promised up to 2,000 miles per rental as standard offer to **Miles & More** members, depending on the number of rentals per year. It seems that this product was too attractive (or simply too expensive for *Sixt*) as it has seen two major restrictions in the meantime. On one hand, one now requires 50 instead of 30 annual rentals to get to the top level with 2,000 miles and on the other hand, corporate rates are now excluded from the offer... Better news is that this offer is now also open to members of Air Berlin's **topbonus** program and that this might be a sign that it will be offered step by step in all the other various partner programs of *Sixt* as well.

Miles for train connections to airports continue to be really scarce at a global level, what justifies mentioning the few exceptions in a positive manner, even if one earns only one mile per Euro spent in the present case: As element of Lufthansa's strategy to extend its presence at Milan Malpensa, **Miles & More** members can, as of now, earn miles on the *Malpensa Express* to the city of Milan or, as it is common practice in the program, use them for award tickets. On the other side, the previous partnership between Miles & More and the Transrapid in Shanghai Pudong doesn't exist anymore - let's hope that this new rail partnership will last for a longer period.