

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  
Form 6-K  
December 13, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

Report of Foreign Private Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of December, 2002

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

c/o Ryanair Ltd Corporate Head Office  
Dublin Airport  
County Dublin Ireland  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F..X.. Form 40-F.....

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes ..... No ..X..

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82- \_\_\_\_\_

OVER 150,000 SEATS SOLD BY RYANAIR TO BELGIAN CONSUMERS AND VISITORS AT JUST EUR9.99

Ryanair today announced that over 150,000 seats had been sold to Belgian consumers and visitors over the past two days in response to Ryanair's record low fare seat sale on its 10 routes to/from Brussels Charleroi. The two day seat sale which was launched in response to the EU Commission's decision to investigate Ryanair's successful partnership with Brussels Charleroi Airport and yet again demonstrates the enormous customer and consumer support for both Ryanair and Brussels Charleroi Airport, and indicates just how out of touch the EU Commission was in launching its politically motivated "investigation" this

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

week.

Ryanair confirmed that it had (last March and April) provided the Commission with evidence that its low cost base at Brussels Charleroi, which was negotiated in accordance with the "private investor" principle, was not exclusive to Ryanair and was open to anyone else who wishes to invest in Brussels Charleroi on a like for like basis. Ryanair has heard nothing from the Commission since last April until this week's surprise announcement of this formal investigation.

Commenting of the success of the seat sale, Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary said;

"We are delighted with the public response to this latest seat sale initiative. Ryanair and Brussels Charleroi Airport have been the champions of low fares choice and bringing the cost of air travel within the budget of ordinary consumers and not just the rich.

"It would seem that the European Commission, in its politically motivated decision to investigate Ryanair's cost base a Brussels Charleroi would rather turn the clock back to a day when Belgian consumers and Belgian tourism suffered under the yolk of high fares and high costs, in order that Ryanair's complaining competitors can preserve their high fare operations.

"Ryanair will continue to fight for low fares in Europe. We remain confident that the politically motivated investigation launched by the Commission this week will ultimately confirm that Ryanair's low cost base at Brussels Charleroi is not in breach of State aid rules and we hope that Commissioner de Palacio will move quickly to expedite this investigation and allow Ryanair to get on with the process of rolling out competition, consumer choice and low fares all over Europe".

Ryanair has written to Commissioner de Palacio seeking an urgent meeting to address and resolve any concerns that the Commission may have about Ryanair's successful low fare operations at Brussels Charleroi.

Ends.

For further information  
please contact:

Michael O'Leary	Pauline McAlester
Ryanair	Murray Consultants
Tel. +353-1-8121212	Tel. +353-1-4980300

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC

Date: 13 December 2002

By:\_\_\_/s/ Howard Millar\_\_\_

Edgar Filing: RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC - Form 6-K

H Millar  
Company Secretary & Finance Director