

## Press Release

13 February 2018

### **“Love is in the Air” by AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo**

**AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo (AFKLMP Cargo) has proven history and expertise where it comes to the transport of fresh flowers.**

With Valentine’s Day approaching AFKLMP Cargo shipped, over a two-week period (January/February), around 3,000 tonnes of flowers originating from well-known leading production and export countries like Kenya, Ecuador and Colombia to Europe.

Using our Boeing 747-400 full freighter and combi aircraft we were able to generate additional main deck capacity to/from our three main flower origins Nairobi, Quito and Bogotá. The greatest share of this additional capacity is mainly intended to supply the European (primarily Dutch, English, Italian, French and Russian) and Asian (Japanese) markets.

Marcel de Nooijer, Executive Vice President AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo says: *“We are strongly committed to the flower market and successfully met seasonal peak flower demand again for this year’s Valentine’s Day”.*

In 2017, AFKLMP Cargo shipped more than 50,000 tonnes of flowers from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ecuador and Colombia to Schiphol. Due to its favourable climate and high altitude, Kenya offers perfect growing conditions for roses. Most of the roses (known as “Rhodas”) are red roses with stems averaging 30 to 50 centimetres in length.

Transporting flowers is a delicate process. The less often they are physically handled during their transportation, the longer they will maintain their beauty. The ideal situation is a stable logistics ‘cold chain’ that ensures quick and efficient transportation to keep the flowers as fresh as possible. During the flight on board our aircraft, we respect their delicate nature by constantly maintaining the cargo hold temperature between 2 to 8 Celsius degree.

To move flowers and plants seamlessly from growers to wholesalers, Royal FloraHolland, Schiphol Cargo and AFKLMP Cargo have initiated the ‘Holland Flower Alliance’ – an ambitious group of floricultural logistics professionals, dedicated to the pursuit of innovation and sustainability in the floral supply chain. Amsterdam remains Europe’s logistics centre for the flower market, with Schiphol Airport as the world’s ‘preferred Flower Hub’, connecting all key production and consumer markets. Royal FloraHolland, located in Aalsmeer, the Netherlands, is the largest trading centre for flowers in the world and plays a crucial role in onward distribution.

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## **Company profile**

The Air France KLM Group is a global airline group with a strong European base. Its main areas of business are passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance.

Air France KLM is the leading group in international air traffic from its hubs Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG) and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS), which are ranked among the Top Three European cargo hubs. With a fleet of 534 aircraft and 93.4 million passengers carried in 2016, Air France KLM provides service to 320 destinations in 114 countries.

AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo is the Air France KLM Group's dedicated air cargo business. Our three airlines offer the industry more than a thousand weekly frequencies to 127 destinations. In 2016, AIR FRANCE KLM MARTINAIR Cargo transported 1.1 million tonnes of cargo. In addition to the Group's global network of passenger aircraft, we offer cargo main deck capacity on two Boeing 777 Freighters, four Boeing 747-400 Freighters and nine Boeing 747-400 Combi aircraft.

In 2016, Air France Cargo and KLM Cargo and our hubs (CDG and AMS) obtained the IATA CEIV certification, providing service excellence to the pharmaceutical industry.

Air France KLM Cargo is a member of SkyTeam Cargo ([www.skyteamcargo.com](http://www.skyteamcargo.com)) offering an even larger network coverage. Special partnerships include China Southern Cargo, Delta Cargo, Jet Airways Cargo and Kenya Airways Cargo.

Additional information is available at: [www.afklcargo.com](http://www.afklcargo.com)

