



BUSINESS

Finnair CEO Says Company Reviewing Short-Haul Network Plans

Airline to introduce larger seating planes on existing destinations or tap new markets



Finnair CEO Pekka Vauramo talks to media during a press conference on Feb. 11, 2015. PHOTO: EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

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0 COMMENTS

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MIAMI— [Finnair Oyj](#) is starting to review its short-haul network in a move that could lead to the addition of new aircraft or a switch to larger models, said airline Chief Executive Pekka Vauramo.

The carrier is looking to increase its short-haul flying capacity to feed its long-haul fleet that is set for a period of growth from next year, Mr. Vauramo said on the sidelines of the International Air Transport Association's annual meeting.

Finnair will either introduce larger seating planes on existing destinations to boost passenger numbers or tap new markets, in which case the fleet will have to increase, Mr. Vauramo said. A decision on what path to take is due this year, he said.

Finnair operates [Embraer S.A.](#) regional jets and Airbus Group SE single-aisle planes on its European network, as well as some ATR 72 turboprops. Mr. Vauramo said the airline wasn't yet clear how many additional planes it would buy or lease.

In September, Finnair is due to become the first European airline to receive Airbus's new A350 long-range jet, which entered service this year with Qatar Airways. The European carrier, which has bet heavily on travel to Asia, will start operating the long-haul plane on the Shanghai route in October and is set to get four A350 jets this year.

The first seven A350 jets, featuring 297 seats each, will replace gas-guzzling A340 planes. The A340 jets are due to be phased out from Finnair service in 2016.

The airline also is looking to expand its international network with additional destinations in China and Japan being considered, Mr. Vauramo said.

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