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RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
October 16, 2003

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 October, 2003

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- _____

RYANAIR TO SUE AIR MEDITERRANEE
OVER FALSE ALLEGATIONS

Ryanair, Europe's No.1 low fares airline today announced that it is to sue Aer Mediterranee for false allegations made in the media. Air Mediterranee have claimed that Ryanair's low fares scheduled services to Pau airport near the Pyrenees have decreased their charter traffic at a completely different airport. In fact, official CAA statistics confirm that Air Mediterranee's traffic at Tarbes has actually increased by over 70% since Ryanair's arrival at Pau.

Announcing details of the court action, Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary said:

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"

1. Air Mediterranee as a charter airline does not compete with Ryanair (or anyother airline) for passengers. In common with all charter airlines it sells all of its seat capacity to tour operators and it is the tour operators who take the risk not the airline.
2. Whilst Air Mediterranee runs a small number of weekly charter flights during the Summer period only between London and Tarbes Lourdes International Airport, the total traffic carried by tour operators using Air Mediterranee during 2002 (the last year prior to Ryanair's arrival at Pau) amounted to only 5,000 passengers, which is equivalent to less than 1 month's traffic on Ryanair's low fare scheduled services between Stansted and Pau.
3. Air Mediterranee's claim that it has lost 30% of its clientele on its "route" between London and Tarbes Lourdes Airport is factually untrue. In fact the opposite case is proven by the official CAA statistics. The claim by Air Mediterranee's Managing Director, Mr Antoine Ferreti that its business has been affected by Ryanair's low fare services from London to Pau is clearly untrue.
4. The CAA official statistics (see attached) for the London-Tarbes Lourdes route confirm that in 2003 year to date traffic on the charter flights operated by Air Mediterranee up to the end of August 2003 has increased by over 70%from 4,900 to 8,500 passengers.

Air Mediterranee have suffered no damage whatsoever (in fact its traffic has risen by 70%) as a result of Ryanair's low fare services to Pau. This is just the latest attempt by French airlines to misuse the local administrative tribunal process in France to block competition, choice and low fare air travel developing at the French regional airports.

Ryanair and the Chamber of Commerce in Pau will also be asking the courts in Pau to dismiss the Air Mediterranee lawsuit and to send a message to all other French airlines that the regional airports and French consumers want to promote and welcome low fare air travel to and from the regions of France.

At a time when the merger of Air France and KLM will create the biggest European mega carrier airline, there is an even more important need for low fares airlines such as Ryanair to provide low fares, direct flights and competition to these mega carriers and also to provide local people in the regions of France and Europe with direct access to destinations other than Paris Charles de Gaulle."

Official C.A.A. passenger statistics - Air Mediterranee route
London-Lourdes

MONTH	PASSENGERS - 2002	PASSENGERS - 2003	
MARCH	128	-	
APRIL	509	553	
MAY	1280	2876	
JUNE	1101	1203	
JULY	882	1246	
AUGUST	998	2498	
TOTAL	4898	8376	+70%

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(Source: official C.A.A. traffic statistics)

Ends

16th October 2003

For further information

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 Ryanair Murray Consultants
 Tel. +353-1-8121212 Tel. +353-1-4980300

(Full C.A.A. statistics for Air Mediterranee London- Lourdes route attached).

UK - TARBRES-LOURDES INTERNATIONAL PAX 2002-2003 Air Mediterranee

AIR MED UK - LOURDES PAX BY MONTH	Flights		Capacity		Pax	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
January						
February						
March	1		130		128	
April	5	5	650	1,118	509	675
May	18	32	2,356	5,930	1,543	4,329
June	17	14	2,210	2,762	1,704	1,549
July	11	33	1,520	5,814	1,132	4,312
August	17	25	2,386	4,322	1,591	3,356
September	14		1,820		1,305	
October	12		1,740		1,462	
November						
December						
Total UK-TARBRES	95	109	12,812	19,946	9,374	14,221
UK-TARBRES Year to date	69	109	9,252	19,946	6,607	14,221

AIR MED LONDON - LOURDES PAX BY MONTH	Flights		Capacity		Pax	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
January						
February						
March	1		130		128	
April	5	4	650	790	509	553
May	16	21	2,088	4,410	1,280	2,876
June	12	11	1,560	2,088	1,101	1,203
July	9	9	1,174	1,754	882	1,246
August	11	19	1,520	3,370	998	2,498
September	14		1,820		1,305	
October	8		1,220		971	
November						

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December

Total	76	64	10,162	12,412	7,174	8,376
LONDON-TARBRES						
LONDON-TARBRES	54	64	7,122	12,412	4,898	8,376
Year to date						

AIR MED LOURDES PAX BY ORIGIN	Flights		Capacity		Pax	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	FULL	YTD	FULL	YTD	FULL	YTD
BELFAST	13	18	1,698	2,520	1,468	2,081
INTERNATIONAL						
BIRMINGHAM	2		260		231	
EDINBURGH		2		440		358
EXETER		1		130		119
GATWICK		2		440		419
GLASGOW		2		440		376
JERSEY		1		234		64
LEEDS BRADFORD		2		260		254
LIVERPOOL	4	11	692	2,092	501	1,608
LUTON	74	2	9,722	260	6,967	220
MANCHESTER		1		328		122
NEWCASTLE		1		130		82
PRESTWICK		6		960		781
STANSTED	2	60	440	11,712	207	7,737
Total UK	95	109	12,812	19,946	9,374	14,221
-TARBRES						
Total	76	64	10,162	12,412	7,174	8,376
LONDON-TARBRES						

AIR MED LOURDES PAX BY ORIGIN YTD to end AUG	Flights		Capacity		Pax	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD	YTD
BELFAST	11	18	1,438	2,520	1,208	2,081
INTERNATIONAL						
EDINBURGH		2		440		358
EXETER		1		130		119
GATWICK		2		440		419
GLASGOW		2		440		376
JERSEY		1		234		64
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Total LONDON - TARBRES Year to date	54	64	7,122	12,412	4,898	8,376

Source: UK Civil Aviation Authority

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: 16 October 2003

By:____/s/ Howard Millar____

H Millar
Company Secretary & Finance Director