

email: city@express.co.uk
Visit City & Business pages online
at www.express.co.uk/city
Tel: 020 8612 7156



City & Business

Two more leave board of easyJet

EASYJET has said a further two board members are stepping down, just weeks after the airline won a bitter battle with its biggest shareholder.

Deputy chairman Charles Gurassa and director Andy Martin will follow finance boss Andrew Findlay out of the door, it was announced yesterday.

The company said both directors have been on the board for nine years and their resignations are “in line with corporate governance best practice”.

According to the Financial Reporting Council, a board member’s independence can be impaired if they have spent more than nine years in the job.

However, easyJet’s timing was questioned by **Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou**, its biggest shareholder.

Earlier this year, Sir Stelios launched a major battle against the airline he founded, in a bid to get it to drop a £4.5billion contract to buy 107 aircraft from plane-maker Airbus.

Last month, the board claimed a decisive victory over the businessman when nearly all other shareholders voted against his proposal to fire four directors.

Sir Stelios had targeted Mr Findlay for removal alongside easyJet’s chief executive and chairman. Neither Mr Gurassa

By **August Graham**

nor Mr Martin was on his list. Yesterday, the businessman said: “I find the current situation very bizarre.

“This is a board that only 10 working days earlier was telling investors that this is not the time for regime change. It now seems to be happening anyway.

“The real question in my mind is... were Gurassa and Martin pushed or did they jump?”

Sir Stelios has accused easyJet of links to Marc Bonnant, a Swiss lawyer whose name appears in the Panama Papers leaks.

An earlier allegation that three former directors met Mr Bonnant in 2016 was rebuffed by easyJet, which said that two of the directors were in London at the time, meeting shareholders, including Sir Stelios’s easyGroup.

EasyJet has previously rejected Sir Stelios’s claims of impropriety or secret dealings in the Airbus contract.

Yesterday, chairman John Barton said: “On behalf of the board, I would like to thank both Charles and Andy for their very significant contribution to easyJet over the past nine years.”



STEPPING DOWN:
Charles Gurassa

