

Source: Daily Mail {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Tuesday 9, June 2020
Page: 72
Area: 126 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 1132908 Daily
Ad data: page rate £32,508.00, scc rate £129.00
Phone: 020 7938 6000
Keyword: Stelios Haji-ioannou

Easyjet directors quit as Stelios row escalates

THE bitter row between Easyjet and its founder flared up yesterday as two more board members quit.

The budget airline announced that its deputy chairman Charles Gurassa, and most senior independent board member Andy Martin, will step down later this year.

Easyjet insisted they are simply following corporate governance guidelines which stipulate that non-executive directors should serve no more than nine years to preserve the board's independence, unless they can explain why they should stay on.

But their departure comes less than two weeks after finance chief Andrew Findlay resigned – just days after a failed boardroom coup by the airline's combative founder **Stelios Haji-ioannou**. Speaking yes-

terday, Stelios said: 'Two more scoundrels running for the hills following the CFO's resignation just two weeks ago. This is a board that only 10 working days earlier was telling investors that this is not the time for regime change. The real question in my mind is were Gurassa and Martin pushed or did they jump?'

Finance chief Findlay was one of four boardroom members labelled 'scoundrels' by Stelios for pushing through a £4.5bn order with Airbus for new planes. The 53-year-old Greek has claimed this could bankrupt the troubled airline.

More than 99pc of votes cast by shareholders other than Stelios and his family supported the executives, including chief executive Johan Lundgren, chairman John Barton and director Andreas Bierwirth.