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RYANAIR HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
December 09, 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 December 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 HOPEFUL OF POSITIVE OUTCOME
IN STRASBOURG APPEAL

Ryanair, Europe's No. 1 low fares airline, today (Tuesday, 9th December 2003) confirmed that they were optimistic following the court hearing in Strasbourg this morning and that they were particularly encouraged by the Commissioner of the Government's comments, who in his summation, made three points:

1. that the Administrative Tribunal in Strasbourg did not have the competence to hear such a commercial dispute.

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2. that the agreement between Ryanair and Strasbourg did not constitute state aid, and
3. that the Britair / Air France case be thrown out and that costs be awarded against Britair / Air France.

Speaking from outside the Court of Appeals in Nancy this morning, Ryanair's Chief Executive, Michael O'Leary, said:

"We were pleased with how this morning's court hearing went and optimistic that the court will find in favour of low fares for ordinary people, instead of the outrageous high fares being charged by Britair / Air France. For example, Air France's lowest mid-week return fare is EUR800, which is more than 40 times higher than Ryanair's fare of EUR19.00".

The President of the Court announced that he is expected to make a decision by the end of the year.

N.B. Britair/Air France lowest mid-week return fare of EUR800 - over 40 times higher than Ryanair's lowest midweek return fare on the route of EUR19.00. These fares are an abuse of consumers and an abuse of Air France's monopoly position in eliminating competition on the Strasbourg-London route.

Ends. Tuesday 9th December 2003

For further information

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
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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: 09 December 2003

By:___/s/ Howard Millar___

H Millar
Company Secretary & Finance Director