

Information

AEA'S BLUEPRINT FOR A GLOBAL SOLUTION 'PRAGMATIC AND PRACTICAL' Global carbon cap and trade can work for international aviation, says industry body

The Association of European Airlines, which represents 34 leading European airlines that operate 11,500 daily flights into over 160 countries worldwide, has issued a call for the European Summit of Heads of State and Government on March 19/20 to agree on a global solution to a global challenge – namely, carbon dioxide emissions.

AEA Secretary General, Mr Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, welcomed the European Commission's statement in its Communication of 28 January 2009¹ that *"due to the global nature of international aviation and maritime transport, global measures should be taken to address their climate impact"*.

The AEA has examined how such a global solution can be achieved. Mr Schulte-Strathaus said *"Individual countries or regions acting in isolation cannot resolve what is essentially a global phenomenon. We believe we have a proposal which is pragmatic and practical, and hopefully acceptable to all stakeholders"*. The AEA argues that it is time to 'think outside the box'.

Mr Schulte-Strathaus added, *"We, as airlines, care about the environment and want to make sure that the forthcoming Copenhagen process succeeds for our sector. Therefore, we have developed a concept which moves away from individual States to a global sector-wide approach. The concept follows the Kyoto principle of common but differentiated responsibility and allows for different levels of environmental stringency depending on the stage of economic development, without causing competitive distortions"*. Details are available on our website www.aea.be.

- Adria Airways
- Aer Lingus
- AeroSvit
- Air France
- Air Malta
- Air One
- Alitalia
- Austrian
- bmi
- British Airways
- Brussels Airlines
- Cargolux
- Croatia Airlines
- Cyprus Airways
- Czech Airlines
- DHL
- Finnair
- Iberia
- Icelandair
- Jat Airways
- KLM
- LOT
- Lufthansa
- Luxair
- Malev
- Olympic Airlines
- SAS Scandinavian Airlines
- SWISS
- TAP Portugal
- TAROM
- TNT Airways
- Turkish Airlines
- Ukraine International Airlines
- Virgin Atlantic Airways

AEA urges the European Summit of Heads of State and Government to take into consideration the specificities of aviation, and to use the AEA concept as a basis for discussions within the UN Agency for Aviation, ICAO, so that aviation could be included in a post-Kyoto framework based on a carbon cap and trade system.

“A global emissions trading scheme and technology are not contradictory, but complementary”, argued Mr Schulte-Strathaus. “In our industry, we believe we have the innovative skills to reduce aviation’s dependency on fossil fuels. Such a pragmatic global scheme would be an additional incentive to encourage innovation”.

¹ Commission Communication entitled “Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen”, p.7)

For further information, please contact:

David Henderson
Manager Information
Phone : +32(0) 2 639 89 72
Email: david.henderson@aea.be
www.aea.be

Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 34 European established scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 370 million passengers and 7 million tonnes of cargo each year, operating 2,600 aircraft serving 615 destinations in 165 countries with 11,575 flights a day. They provide around 423,000 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €78 billion