

Information

22 December 2009

COPENHAGEN CLIMATE CONFERENCE – STILL NO AGREEMENT FOR AVIATION

Airlines' own vision stands out as a model of clarity amid political indecisiveness

The Association of European Airlines, representing Europe's most important network carriers, has confirmed that its members remain firmly committed to a powerful and meaningful programme to halve the industry's carbon footprint, on a global scale, following the inconclusive outcome of the Copenhagen conference on the issue of aviation's contribution to global warming.

"The airline sector went to Copenhagen with a clear vision of halving current CO2 emission levels by 2050", said AEA Secretary General Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, "with interim targets for consistent emissions-efficiency improvements in the short term and carbon-neutral growth from 2020. An intensive development programme for new-technology aircraft, engines and fuels, backed by market-based measures, has put aviation ahead of any other emitting sectors in making genuine commitments to powerful and meaningful targets".

The airlines, he said, would continue to press for a Global Sectoral Approach for aviation and seek to arrive at the same political consensus within the International Civil Aviation Association (ICAO) as the airlines themselves had achieved within IATA. *"It is frustrating", said Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, "that we find ourselves having to look forward to 2010, another ICAO Assembly and another Climate Change Conference, to endorse an industry plan which has been on the table for six months already".*

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