

European Day of Action on Aviation: 16th June 2007

Theme: Short-Distance Flights

(That is the suggested theme which most groups are using though one or two groups have chosen to highlight other issues in their area)

United Kingdom

London Heathrow: Big Ben to the Eiffel Tower Race: Train or Plane? Which is Quickest?

Campaigners will race from Big Ben to the Eiffel Tower, two by Eurostar and two by plane from Heathrow. Fellow campaigners will wave them off in a colourful ceremony on College Green (opposite the House of Lords) when Big Ben strikes 11 o'clock. There will be a good chance for a photo-opportunity (from 10.30 onwards) as about a dozen well-wishers will gather in bright t-shirts, with French and English flags. They will be joined by French campaigners from Charles de Gaulle Airport who will already have raced from the Eiffel Tower to Big Ben. English tea and cake will be served. There will be opportunities for filming at Waterloo and on the Eurostar train. The French media will meet the 'racers' at the Eiffel Tower.

Contact John Stewart on 0207 737 6641 or 07957385650; or Geraldine Nicholson, Chair NOTRAG on 01895 854519

Gatwick (on Monday 11th): Climate Change Study launched

The local campaign group at Britain's second busiest airport publishes an important new study into the climate change damage caused by flights from Gatwick Airport. Based on official government statistics, the study shows that UK citizens on return flights from Gatwick each year are responsible for emissions equivalent to over 20 million tonnes of CO2. That is more than the total CO2 emissions from all activities in all Surrey and West Sussex (the English regions surrounding Gatwick).

Contact Brendon Sewill on 01293 863 369

Bristol: Cycle Ride from Bristol Temple Meads Station to Bristol International Airport on theme of 'trains not planes'

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion will be joining many other groups around the UK and across Europe in protesting against airport expansion, with particular emphasis on short-haul flights. We will be focusing on a theme of 'trains not planes' with a bike ride from Bristol Temple Meads to Bristol International Airport. There will be a photo opportunity for the press at each end: at Temple Meads we will be emphasising the point that Government is focusing on airport expansion and largely ignoring the rail network - yet Temple Meads urgently needs new signalling to improve its capacity (we may be joined by some rail campaigners); at the BIA end we will be arranging a visual illustration of the theme - to be revealed on the day! After that we hope to picnic on Felton Common close to the airport.

Contact: Susan Pearson on 0117 966 6591 or 07891 460942

Southampton: Colourful demonstration near Southampton Airport

Contact Chris Bluemel on 02380 550264 or 07985982288

Aberdeen: City Centre Stunt and Leafleting

Contact Almuth Ernsting on 10224 324797

Edinburgh: City Centre Stall

Stall in city centre staffed by local World Development Movement group

Contact John Blair-Fish on 0131 445 7703 or 0131 650 4928

Netherlands

Schiphol Airport: Press Launch on Thalys train

The Dutch campaigners will be holding a press conference on a Thalys-train running between Schiphol and Brussels to launch their 'Antwerp Declaration'. This will call for a 'ticket' tax, similar to the Air Passenger Duty (APD) imposed in the UK, to be levied by all European countries. The Declaration has been signed by MEPs and MPs from several different countries.

Contact Evert Hassink on +31(0)651080994

France

Paris – Charles de Gaulle: Eiffel Tower to Big Ben Air/Rail Race

See under London Heathrow

Toulouse (Friday 15th June): Press Conference, with drinks (18h to 21h) to be held under the flight path to Toulouse Airport

The idea is to get coverage in the press on the Saturday of the noise situation of more than 70,000 people living under the flight path

In France there will also be activity at Pontoise, Strasbourg, Saint Cyr l'Ecole, Toussus le Noble airports

For details of the French activities: Alain Lebrun +33 (0)624762145

Switzerland

Zurich (Friday 15th) Colourful action with balloons and train tickets

There will be an action on short-distance flights with balloons and "tickets for travelling by train" to cities not more than 500 km away with information on the benefits for people and environment on the back.

Contact Vreni Püntener; email: ssf@flugemissionen.ch

Belgium

Brussels: Stunt with banners and polar bears

Banners with the words "closed because of climate change" will be placed near airport access in the morning. During the afternoon, distribute folders (looking like airline tickets) dressed like white bears. The folders will develop two aspects: climate change and low cost-short flights.

Contact: Pierre Courbe 081/25.52.80