

AIRPOR WATCH

EUROPE

THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
AIRPORT AND AVIATION ACTIVISTS

EXCHANGE

Newsletter for Aviation Campaigners across Europe

Heathrow protesters occupy runway



@PLANESTUPID

Thirteen activists from the direct action network Plane Stupid occupied the runway at Heathrow in July. Plans for a third runway at Heathrow were dropped in 2010 after an 8 year campaign against it. But pressure from big business and the aviation industry means that the Government are thinking about it again. It will make a decision before the end of this year. The Plane Stupid protest was to warn the Government that if it tried to build a third runway it would face big direct action opposition. The activists cut the fence surrounding the airport at 3.30 in the morning and occupied the runway for several hours. They face a trial in January. A few days earlier a local resident (pictured right) who will lose his home if a new runway is built blocked the road tunnel which people use to reach the airport. There is strong opposition to a third runway not only from local residents and environmentalists but also from many politicians from all the political parties. The UK Government knows it will face another huge campaign if it attempts to go for a third runway again.



Frankfurt campaigners occupy the terminal for the **150th** time



Zum 150. Mal Demo im Flughafen-Terminal

Dreimal so viel Mitmarschierer wie an normalen Montagen haben die Veranstalter der jüngsten Montagsdemo am Frankfurter Flughafen gemeldet. Nicht nur hielten die Kritiker des Flughafenausbaus zum

150. Mal ihre Protestplakate in die Höhe und ließen Tröten, Trommeln und gellendes Pfeifen ertönen, sie stimmten sich auch ein auf einen Termin am kommenden Montag: den 1. Spatenstich zum neuen Ter-

terminal 3. Dessen Bau will man, wenn man ihn schon nicht verhindern kann, durch Protest und Widerstand zumindest möglichst lange verzögern. Dies habe auch bei der Startbahn West und der Nordwest-

landebahn geklappt. Ansonsten bleiben die Positionen die gleichen: Rücknahme des Ausbaus, Nachtflugverbot von 22 bis 6 Uhr, Obergrenze für Flugbewegungen, kein Terminal 3. ■ Foto: Faust

On 28th September campaigners at Frankfurt occupied the terminal for the 150th time in protest against the impact of the 4th runway. On most Monday evenings since the the runway was opened in 2011 the campaigners have occupied the terminal. They want the runway shut down. The airport has introduced minor changes such as bringing in the planes to land at slightly steeper angles but residents say they make little difference. Meanwhile, the Federal Government has given the airport the go-ahead to build a 3rd terminal. During the summer there was a protest camp against it. Local people were joined by the environmental NGO Robin Wood (picture right).



Thousands at protest against proposed new Nantes Airport



Thousands of people turned up again this year to the annual protest weekend against the new airport planned for Notre-Dames-des-Landes outside Nantes in France. But the weekend is only the centre of nationwide protests against the proposed new airport. There are over 2,000 citizens groups in France

and Belgium who campaign against the airport. And there are the direct action activists living in Le Zad on the land where the airport would be. Local people are also mounting legal challenges. When AirportWatch Europe was at the protest weekend this year (picture right) the residents were telling us that they thought it would be very difficult for President Holland to allow the airport to be built before the next French presidential elections in 2 years time because of the scale of the opposition to it. The campaigners have also made international links with people defending their land against development in a number of other countries in the world including Brazil, Russia, Italy and Roumania.



Munich: Bavarian politicians moving away from support for a third runway

Horst Seehofer, the Bavarian Prime Minister, is expected to propose a moratorium on plans for a third runway very soon. He has realized that the City of Munich politicians are not likely to drop their opposition to the runway. Both the Bavarian Government and the City of Munich need to agree before it can go ahead. The Prime Minister also met with local groups opposed to the runway. He will also be aware that the economic case for a new runway is not strong because the use of the existing runways at Munich has been falling.

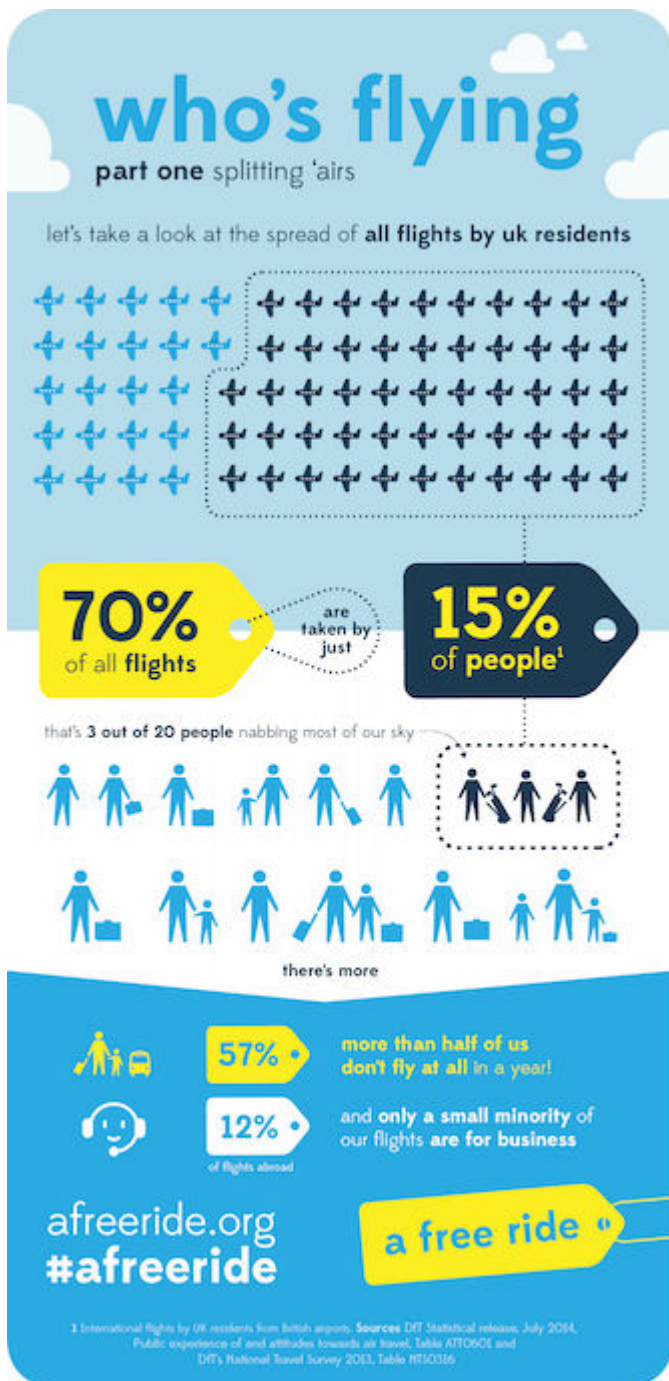
Berlin: New airport delayed further

Berlin's long-delayed Brandenburg airport has suffered another setback after flaws were found in the terminal roof. It appears that the ceiling in the terminal building is too heavy. The airport, which was originally due to open in 2010, is still under construction and has run billions of euros over budget. It was expected to open in 2017 but it could be postponed even further. Local residents are calling for the airport to be abandoned and for a new airport to be built further out of Berlin where the flight paths will not go over communities. Every delay helps them.

Time for a fair tax on aviation

It is well known that aviation fuel is tax-free. And in most countries there is no VAT paid on airline tickets. The way to reduce demand for flying is to make sure that aviation is properly taxed. A new campaign has been launched in the UK for a **Frequent Flyers Levy**. The idea is wonderfully simple. Each person is allowed one tax-free return flight each year. But then the tax increases with every other flight you

take. It allows ordinary families to take fly away on holiday each year but it penalises the people who take many flights. As the chart below shows, in the UK 70% of flights are taken by 15% of people. Most of these are not people flying on business. They are largely wealthy people making a large number of leisure trips. The figures are likely to be similar in most European countries. In the UK aviation campaigners are lobbying the political parties to adopt a Frequent Flyers Levy as their official policy.



Keeping in touch

AirportWatch Europe is a network which brings together groups and individuals fighting the unsustainable growth of aviation.

There are a number of ways in which we can keep in touch and share news of our campaigns.

website: <http://www.airportwatcheurope.com/>;

twitter: [@AirportWatchEU](https://twitter.com/AirportWatchEU);

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AirportWatch-Europe/1444032905848045>