

SERA STATEMENT ON AVIATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND EU EMISSIONS TRADING

“Where there’s a will, there’s a way”

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- Recognises the contribution that the aviation industry makes to the UK economy including employment and to the opportunities it provides for travel.
- Remains concerned at the growing environmental impacts of aviation including its contribution to climate change and noise. Unless prompt action is taken, aviation will become a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Europe.
- Welcomes efforts being made by the UK Government, the European Commission and other Member States to combat the climate change impacts of aviation
- Supports the inclusion of aviation into the EU emissions trading regime (ETS) **PROVIDING**
 - The EU ETS develops into a viable and effective instrument for mitigating climate change
 - Those negotiating aviation's inclusion into the scheme recognise the importance of early discussions on the appropriate increase in the EU wide cap on emissions to take account of aviation's entry and on the appropriate allocation methodology for allowances. Decisions on these issues should be made at EU level and not left to Member States.
 - To maximise the scheme's coverage and to send an important signal to the rest of the world, all flights taking off from the EU should be included in the scheme irrespective of destination
- Calls on the institutions of the EU and Member States to do everything possible to push for aviation's entry into the scheme in 2008. If necessary, Member States should take unilateral action or act in a "coalition of the willing" to send an important signal to the rest of the EU and the world as to the urgency of this issue.
- Notes with concern that EU ETS will not be able to address the full climate change impacts of aviation
- Urges the EU and Member States to tackle these other impacts including nitrogen oxides and condensation trails
- Calls on the European Commission (acting on behalf of Member States) to renegotiate, as a matter of urgency the bilateral air service agreements to enable, where appropriate, the future imposition of a tax on kerosene where appropriate
- Calls on Member States, working through the ICAO, to seek to retain the flexibility to impose charges for greenhouse gas emissions to reflect the environmental impacts of flights

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