



EXCHANGE

Newsletter for Aviation Campaigners across Europe

3rd Runway at Heathrow Given Green Light

In October the UK Government gave the green light for a 3rd runway at Heathrow. But it may never be built. The scale of opposition to it is huge: local residents, local authorities, many members of Parliament including some Government ministers and environmental campaigners across the country.

The Government argued that a new runway is needed to improve the links between the UK and the emerging economies of the world – places like China and India. It said that Brexit makes this particularly important.

But the third runway faces big challenges. There will be consultation in 2017 on its local impacts. Then there needs to be a vote in Parliament. After that the proposals need to be agreed by a Public Inquiry. The earliest date it could open is 2024.

Local authorities will challenge it in the courts. Local residents will continue to protest. And many environmentalists will take direct action.

The last plan for a 3rd runway was dropped in 2010 after an eight year campaign by its opponents. It was a famous victory. But, as a result of huge pressure from business and the aviation industry, the Government has given it the go-ahead. The Government has improved the compensation for people who will lose their homes. They have also said that a new runway can only go ahead if the number of night flights at Heathrow is cut and if communities are guaranteed some breaks from the noise each day.

Flight Path Problems? At a number of airports in the UK many communities are having big problems as flight paths are being narrowed and concentrated. It is part of the SESAR Programme to make more efficient use of airspace in order to save the airlines time, money and fuel. There have been big protests in America as well. It would be interesting to know the situation in other European countries. Feel free to email me: johnstewart2@btconnect.com





Frankfurt – 5 years of protest

The Frankfurt campaigners held at a special march this month to celebrate five years of campaigning against the 4th runway. The runway opened in 2011. Virtually every Monday evening since then the campaigners have occupied the terminal in the airport. The protest has been noticed by the aviation industry across Europe.

Nantes - protesters prepare to defend their land

The long-running battle to stop a new airport at Notre-Dames-des-Landes outside Nantes could be reaching its climax. The opponents of the scheme narrowly lost a referendum earlier this year. The Government now believes the land can be cleared so that the new airport can be built. If the police and troops move in, tens of thousands of people are expected to come to defend the land. In particular they will defend Le Zad, the community of direct action activists that has been established. Nobody can tell for sure what will happen but what is certain is that the French state will be confronted by thousands of people in what has become the biggest environmental campaign in France.



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>

This issue of *Exchange* is shorter than normal. It has been mainly been about people opposing new runways. In the next edition we hope to bring you more about what people are doing to curb the noise at existing airports.

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Exchange is compiled by John Stewart -johnstewart2@btconnect.com – on behalf of Airportwatch Europe.

Check out our website: www.airportwatcheurope.com