

# Exchange

Newsletter for Aviation Campaigners across Europe

No 16

December 2014

## Taming Aviation Petition launched in European Parliament



Cecilia Wikström MEP (centre) with initiators Susanne Heger (left) and Jutta Leth

On November 18th the Taming Aviation petition was handed over to the Cecilia Wikström MEP, the chair of the Petitions Committee in the European Parliament in Brussels. The petition was signed by more than 140 groups from 10 EU-member states, representing in total over 250,000 people. The petition is calling for an end to the tax subsidies the aviation industry enjoys. It pays no tax on aviation fuel and there is no VAT on tickets. It is also calling for a ban on night flights. The petition will now be debated in the Petitions Committee. But there will also be opportunities to raise the tax issues when the European Union revises the Energy and VAT Directives over the next two or three years. Taming Aviation will be working closely with the Brussels-based lobby group T & E (Transport and Environment) which helped organize the launch.

• More details at <http://www.tamingaviation.eu/>

# Campaigners gather in Brussels for Taming Aviation Launch

Campaigners came from all over Europe for the launch of the Taming Aviation petition. There were representatives from Austria, Germany, Italy, Belgium, France, the UK and the Netherlands were there. They were joined by MEPs Ulrike Müller, Maria Noichl and Keith Taylor who hosted the event. German campaigners also took the opportunity to hand over their Attaching Manifesto to MEPs. After the formal event, the campaigners held their own meeting where future activities were discussed. We will work to increase support for the petition. We will keep in touch with each other and other campaigners through the Taming Aviation and AirportWatch Europe networks.



## *Keeping in touch*

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

### **AirportWatch Europe**

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

AirportWatch Europe details: <http://www.airportwatcheurope.com/>; twitter: [@AirportWatchEU](https://twitter.com/AirportWatchEU); Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/AirportWatch-Europe/1444032905848045>

### **Taming Aviation**

Taming Aviation details: <http://www.tamingaviation.eu/>; email: [info@tamingaviation.eu](mailto:info@tamingaviation.eu)

Both AirportWatch Europe and Taming Aviation work with other lobby groups such as UECNA - [www.uecna.eu/](http://www.uecna.eu/) - and Transport and Environment (T &E) - [www.transportenvironment.org/](http://www.transportenvironment.org/)

• If you would want to make sure you get this newsletter regularly, email John Stewart – [johnstewart2@btconnect.com](mailto:johnstewart2@btconnect.com)

# Protests Across Europe



On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November **Frankfurt** campaigners partly paralysed the airport by blocking the streets. The campaigners also continue to occupy the terminal every Monday evening in protest against the noise impacts caused by the flight path changes when the 4<sup>th</sup> runway opened over three years ago.

In **Nantes** 2000 people marched against 'police violence' after the death of the French environmental activist Remi Fraisse at the hands of the police.

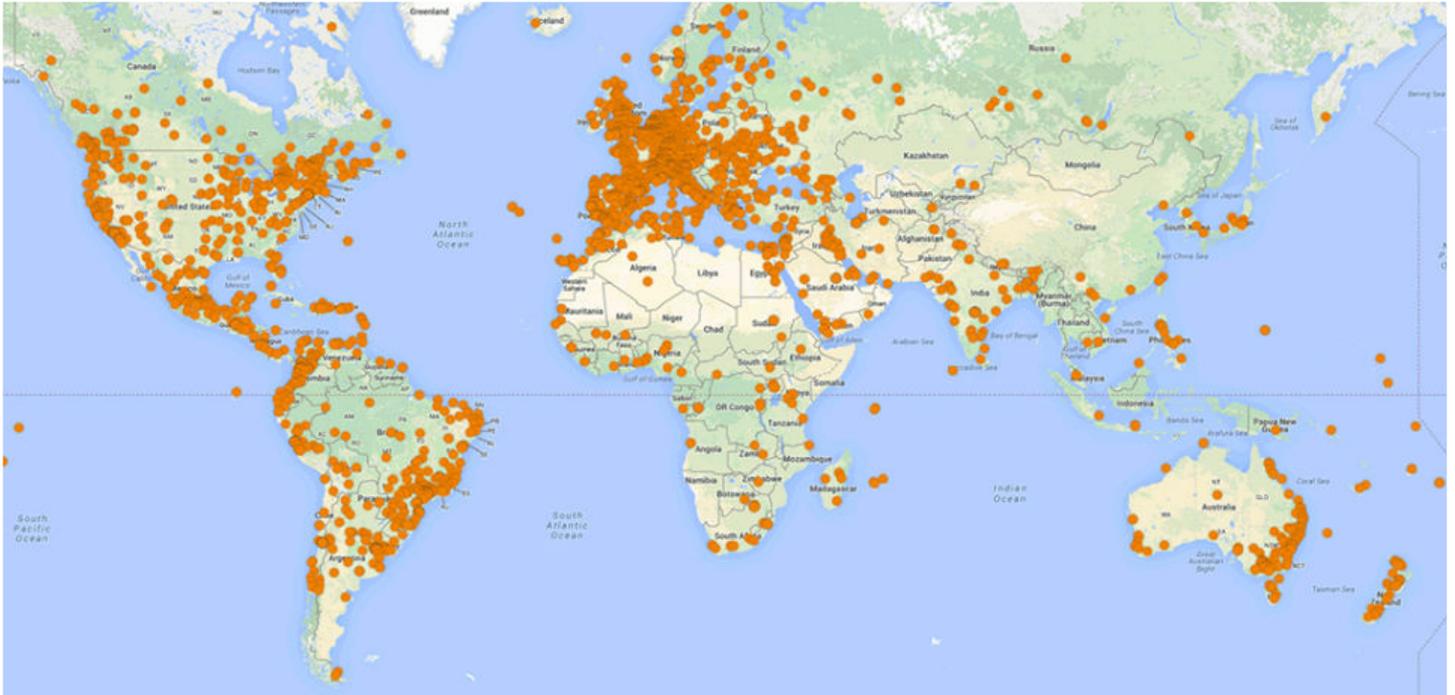


1,000 people said NO to a second runway at **Gatwick** (near London)

Plane Stupid Germany ask the Archbishop of Munich and Freising for his support in their fight against the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway in **Munich**



# Climate Change is back on the agenda



In September hundreds of thousands of people took place in marches across the world to demand effective action to tackle climate change. CO<sub>2</sub> (climate change) emissions from aviation continue to rise at a time when other industries are planning to try and reduce their emissions. Noise is the big local problem caused by aircraft. Climate change is the big global problem. It is a real opportunity for noise and climate campaigners to forge stronger links.

## Noise study backfires on aviation industry



The aviation industry in Germany commissioned a study into the impact of aircraft noise on children's learning. It found that children whose schools are under noisy flight paths learn more slowly. This supports the finding of the RANCH study carried out in the UK a few years ago by Queen Mary's College but the findings are still a bit embarrassing for the aviation industry. The picture shows two young children telling a rally against the 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow what it is like to go to school under the flight path.

• You can find the study at [http://www.norah-studie.de/publikationen.epl ...](http://www.norah-studie.de/publikationen.epl...)



In the next edition of *Exchange* there will be news of the campaign against the expansion of Fiumicino Airport in Rome as well as a special feature on protests over a new airport outside Mexico City.

*Exchange* is compiled by John Stewart - [johnstewart2@btconnect.com](mailto:johnstewart2@btconnect.com) – on behalf of Airportwatch Europe. Check out our website: <http://www.airportwatcheurope.com/>.