

Exchange

Newsletter for Aviation Campaigners across Europe

No 9

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2012: a year of protest...and success

2012 will be remembered as the year of huge protests against airport expansion across Europe. It was also a year when campaigners had a lot of success.



Read more about the protests and the successes on page two.

How to Lobby Successfully in Brussels

At the UECNA Annual General Meeting in March there will be a talk from an expert on the best way to lobby the European Commission and the European Parliament. The meeting is open to everybody. You do not need to be a member of UECNA to attend. Frank Schwalba-Hoth has agreed to address the meeting. He is one of the most experienced lobbyists in Brussels. He was a founder of the German Greens and an MEP from 1984 to 1987. Since he left the European Parliament he has been a consultant in Brussels. In 2011 he published the EU Stakeholder Directory, "a 900 page print and online directory of who's who and what's where in Brussels".

UECNA Annual Meeting: 23rd March: Brussels

09.00 – 11.00: Official Business; **11.00 - 14.30** (including lunch): Talk by Frank Schwalba-Hoth; **14.30 – 16.30:** Discussion of future activities including lobbying the EU; a night flight campaign; a campaign against short distance flights.

Non-members welcome to join us from 11.00 – 16.30.

Email johnstewart2@btconnect.com if you would like to come.

2012: A Sea of Protest across Europe

Frankfurt: Since the 4th runway opened in October 2011, up to 5,000 residents have occupied the terminal every Monday evening in protest against the impact of the new flight paths, with larger protests taking place on many weekends. So far, the campaigners have gained a partial ban on night flights and a promise of a reduction of day-time flights on the new runway. They also got rid of the Mayor of Frankfurt at last year's election. She was replaced by a Mayor who supports the campaigners. They aim to influence the regional and national elections in Germany later this year.

- **Video of the Christmas protest:** <http://youtu.be/96HDbkmSL8s>

Berlin: Thousands of people have taken to the streets in protest against the proposed new airport on the outskirts of the city. The opening of the new airport has been much-delayed.

Nantes: The long-running battle against a new airport at Nantes in SW France captured the international headlines during the recent presidential election when farmers went on a 28 day hunger strike in protest against the seizure of their land. Since then there have been battles in the countryside as armed police have used tear-gas to try to remove people living in houses on the route of the planned new runway. The protest has made headline news across France. There are signs that the Government is feeling the pressure. It has offered talks with the protestors. But the campaigners have said that they will only agree to talk if the police are removed from the countryside and the talks include the possibility of the plans for the new airport being scrapped.

- **Video of campaigners resisting eviction:** <http://youtu.be/NQV2ZOjJqqs>

Vienna: Campaigners are still fighting to stop a third runway at Vienna. The airport proposed a deal with the residents. They proposed that they would reduce the noise over parts of the city in return for a third runway. Some of the residents agreed to the deal but others have continued to oppose the proposed runway.

Ciampino: As we reported in the last issue of *Exchange* aircraft noise has become a major problem for residents at Ciampino Airport in Rome since Ryanair started using the airport a few years ago. Many communities live very close to the airport. The residents are campaigning to cut the number of flights using the airport.

Dropped in 2012



A 3rd runway in Munich

The 3rd runway was stopped in its tracks when the citizens of Munich voted against it in a city-wide referendum following high-profile protests.

A new airport in Siena

Plans for a new airport near Siena in the beautiful Tuscan countryside of North Italy were defeated after a long campaign by local people.

A new airport in Viterbo

Plans for a new airport at the Viterbo Air Force Base, some 40 miles north west of Rome, were dropped following a campaign involving academics, many social movements and environmental and human rights groups.

Ban Night Flights!

Campaigners across Europe want to see an end to night flights. UECNA is compiling a list of the number of night flights at the main European airports. A lot of campaigners feel there should be a Europe-wide campaign against night flights. It would only work, though, if campaign groups across Europe took part in it.



• Would you support a Europe-wide campaign against night flights?

• Would your organisation take an active part in it?

Let us know! Email johnstewart2@btconnect.com

Come to the UECNA Annual Meeting on 23rd March where we will be discussing a possible European campaign against night flights.

On 24th November 2011 there was a Day of Action against Night Flights. Protests took place in many German cities and at Heathrow



Reduce Short Distance Flights!

45% of air trips within Europe are 500 kilometres or less in length. Many of these trips could be done by rail. UECNA is hoping to work with the rail industry to campaign to reduce the number of short-distance flights in Europe. But we need your help!

• Would you support a Europe-wide campaign to reduce short distance flights?

• Would your organisation take an active part in it?

Let us know! Email johnstewart2@btconnect.com

Come to the UECNA Annual Meeting on 23rd March where we will be discussing a possible European campaign to reduce short distance flights.



Night Flight Experiment at Heathrow

HACAN, the campaigning organisation which represents residents under the Heathrow flight paths, has worked with the airport owner, Heathrow Airport, on an experiment to give communities some relief from night flights. Parts of the airspace over London have been divided up into boxes. The boxes are 'no fly' zones. It means that every second week people living in the boxes will get no flights until nearly 06.00. You see the details on www.heathrowairport.com/noise. The experiment lasts until the end of March. We will report on the results of it in a later issue of *Exchange*.

Tell us your news!

Each newsletter will have a section about what is happening in the different campaigns in the different countries around Europe.

- Let us know what is happening at your airports
- Send us information about events you are holding or campaigns you are doing
- Tell us about your successes.....and failures!
- Make this newsletter a real exchange of information

Also send your material to the UECNA website: www.uecna.eu email JP Pago on jp.pago@free.fr

Campaigning and Information Sheets
UECNA has published short campaigning and briefing sheets to assist organizations with their campaigning:
<http://www.uecna.eu/sip.php?article161>

If you want to be able to track the flight paths in your area, UECNA can help. Look at www.dflde.de or email Horst Weise on mail@DFLD.de

Two very useful websites:

- Transport and Environment (T & E): <http://www.transportenvironment.org/>
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB): <http://www.eeb.org/>

Two sites which show you whether your airport and the airlines using it is losing or gaining passengers:

<http://www.anna.aero/european-airline-traffic-trends/>

<http://www.anna.aero/european-airport-traffic-trends/>

If you have videos you want to share, email them to johnstewart2@btconnect.com

This newsletter has been published by UECNA. We are a network of airport community campaign groups across Europe. Our main concern is the noise for residents living around the airports and under the flight paths. We have regular meetings, organize conferences and take part in marches, demonstrations and other visible activities. We also lobby the European Parliament and the European Commission. To find out more visit our website: www.uecna.eu If your group is interested in joining UECNA, email johnstewart2@btconnect.com