

ECTAA endorses the Toulouse Declaration on future sustainability and decarbonisation of aviation

The Toulouse Declaration is the result of a collective and constructive work and was unanimously agreed and endorsed by the EU and all its Member States as well as a wide range of associations representing the broader aviation eco-system. Europe is the first region in the world to make such a commitment not only in terms of objectives, but also wider stakeholder engagement to which ECTAA has proudly contributed.

Toulouse, 04 February 2022. The “Toulouse Declaration on future sustainability and decarbonisation of aviation” was presented today at the Toulouse Aviation Summit. The summit is organized by the Council Presidency which is currently held by France.

The declaration recognises the role aviation plays for connectivity, but also the need for “immediate and adequate action to support and incentivise the decarbonisation of aviation” and the goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, not only in light of the EU climate commitments. It is acknowledged that it is a complex challenge for an industry recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen resilience and sustainability while ensuring competitiveness. All three pillars of sustainability – environmental, social and economic – need to be addressed.

The declaration takes note of increasing expectations of the civil society to decarbonise transport and especially aviation “as part of an optimised mix of transport modes”. ECTAA is convinced that travel intermediaries play a central role here.

For ECTAA and its member organisations making travel and tourism more sustainable is of utmost importance. At the same time aviation is a component of most travel packages and relevant for many tourism businesses. In November 2021 ECTAA became a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism.

“Endorsing the Toulouse Declaration is another step of engagement to make the travel and tourism industry more sustainable” said Pawel Niewiadomski, President of ECTAA and concludes “we are aware of the responsibility of our industry to work towards a greener future, but it makes us also proud to be an active part of the solution. We will therefore continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders to achieve even more together to the benefit of all.”

About ECTAA

ECTAA represents some 70,000 travel agents and tour operators in Europe, which provide consultancy and sell transport, accommodation, leisure and other tourism services as well as combined products to leisure and business customers.

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[Toulouse] Declaration on future sustainability and decarbonisation of aviation

1. Recognising the essential role of aviation in ensuring and improving regional and global multimodal connectivity for Europe and the rest of the world, notably for regions particularly reliant on air transport, as a driver for socio-economic development and cohesion;
2. Recognising the need for immediate and adequate action to support and incentivise the decarbonisation of aviation, especially in the light of the Paris Agreement and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 6th assessment report, of the EU climate commitments for 2030 and 2050 and the Fit for 55 package of proposals as well as of similar commitments and initiatives from non-EU states;
3. [Re]affirming the commitments set out in the Declaration of the International Aviation Climate Ambition Coalition agreed at COP 26;
4. Emphasising that the decarbonisation of aviation is a complex challenge, which should be addressed by implementing a range of different measures and accompanied across the aviation eco-system by partnerships such as Joint Undertakings and Alliances set up at the EU and global level, adequate policy frameworks and effective incentives, such as those referred to in the European Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy;
5. Recognising that aspirational environmental and climate goals at international level must be supported by effective and accountable measures not only worldwide, but equally complemented at national and regional level, and milestones leading to the achievement of the goals;
6. Taking account of the ever changing global landscape and current situation of the sector severely affected by the pandemic and recovering from the COVID-19 crisis to build resilience and sustainability for the future and to ensure the aviation sector's competitive position;
7. Emphasising that in addition to decarbonisation, the non-CO2 impacts of aviation need to be addressed based on on-going research and recognising that many CO2 reduction measures in aviation also reduce non-CO2 impacts;
8. Emphasising the importance of also fostering the social sustainability of air transport and of addressing it at the same time as environmental and economic sustainability of air transport ;
9. Emphasising the importance of international cooperation in ICAO to ensure a global level playing field and in this respect considering that the 41st ICAO Assembly in 2022 should adopt an ambitious long-term aspirational goal for carbon emissions from international aviation in line with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement;
10. Taking into account the growing expectations of civil society for the decarbonisation of transportation, in particular aviation, as part of an optimised mix of transport modes;
11. Recognising the commitments of European and worldwide aviation industry to sustainability and net zero carbon emissions by 2050, such as those expressed in the Aviation Round Table Report on the Recovery of European Aviation of November 2020, and the Destination 2050 and Waypoint 2050 roadmaps by European and global industry respectively;

The [public and private aviation stakeholders] declare that they:

- A. Strive to ensure environmentally, socially and economically sustainable and inclusive connectivity in Europe and worldwide.
- B. Reaffirm their commitment to the decarbonisation of aviation by 2050.
- C. Support a basket of measures with effective and ambitious interim milestones, to accelerate the transition of both the European as well as the international aviation sector to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, such as aircraft technology improvement, improvements in operations, the use of sustainable aviation fuels, market-based measures, carbon pricing, financial incentives, and support to foster environmental and climate innovation in the sector, a number of which are addressed in the Fit for 55 package.
- D. Acknowledge the social dimension of the transition towards sustainable aviation and the importance of fostering social sustainability and just transition, including through adequate social dialogue conducted at all stages, as well as reskilling and upskilling of workers.
- E. Welcome initiatives for a regular and constructive dialogue, in Europe and worldwide, on the decarbonisation of aviation between authorities, industry and civil society.
- F. Call upon all partners worldwide to work together towards the adoption at the 41st ICAO Assembly of an ambitious long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) for international aviation of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- G. Invite other countries and international organisations to join this declaration, engage in the development of sectoral roadmaps, and work together towards sustainability and decarbonisation of aviation worldwide.