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Stockholm, Sweden

London, United Kingdom

New report: Aviation's climate impact the same in 2050 as now under IATA's Fly Net Zero climate plan says new analysis

Aviation plan is 'greenwash', ineffective and risks global biodiversity

In the run-up to the International Air Transport Association's (IATA's) international [Aviation Energy Forum](#) a new analysis shows that the industry's proposed scheme for climate action, Fly Net Zero, will put global biodiversity at risk and compete with food production without reducing aviation's climate impact.

Fly Net Zero will be a focal point at the forum. In the report [Pie in the Sky](#), the New Weather Institute investigates what the plan actually entails and outlines its main failures, which include:

- IATA plans for a doubling of global air passengers by 2050, increasing the size of the climate impact that needs to be abated.
- The plan attempts to “*decarbonise*” aviation but completely disregards the existence of aviation's non-CO2 climate impact. Scientists agree that such effects amount to an impact of the same size as emissions of carbon dioxide.¹ Ignoring them means that IATA is only addressing half of the problem.
- Over the next decade, during a period when it is crucial to reduce climate impact, emissions and non-CO2 effects will increase, only being “off-set” by mechanisms that are considered “*arbitrary*” and “*do almost nothing to tackle the emissions from flying*”.
- From 2035 to 2050 the plan envisages a switch to biofuels, requiring three times as much aviation biofuel as the present global production of all liquid

¹ European Commission (2020). [Updated analysis of the non-CO2 effects of aviation](#)

biofuels. Such a development would endanger global biodiversity, put pressure on food production and increase risks of land grabbing.

“Aiming for twice as many flights and ignoring half of the problem puts aviation far off the climate targets set in Paris in 2015,” says Gunnar Lind, New Weather Institute Sweden. “In fact, if the plan succeeds, aviation will at best be causing as much climate damage as it is today, taking up a huge part of the global carbon budget for this century.”

The New Weather Institute is calling for IATA and the International Civil Aviation Organisation, ICAO, to:

- Draft, pass and implement a resolution on industry-wide climate action that is truly in line with the Paris agreement, committing aviation to zero CO2 emissions by 2050, including non-CO2-effects.
- Call for an inquiry under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the scale of the aviation industry which – allowing for other sectors and aviation’s non-CO2 effects – would be compatible with reaching the 1.5°C goal, with realistic short term action in the first decade to create a credible pathway beyond 2030.
- And, in the meantime governments should take action to limit the growth of aviation through domestic, bi- or unilateral actions, including an embargo on the further expansion of the industry.

Complaint

IATA is currently marketing the scheme as “Fly Net Zero” on its website, claiming that it is “Our Commitment to Fly Net Zero by 2050” and that the pledge sets global aviation *“in line with the objectives of the Paris agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C.”*

The New Weather Institute considers these claims to be in breach of the [Advertising and Marketing Communications Code](#) of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and has filed [a complaint](#) with the (Swedish) regulator (Reklamombudsmannen)

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Notes to editor:

- IATA's Aviation Energy Forum (AEF) is a two-day international symposium held in Munich, Germany, 17–19 May. It will cover topics such as aviation biofuels and other energy options. It is described by IATA as:
“AEF is the premier industry meeting for the world's aviation fuel community. It is a unique platform allowing airline representatives, fuel and SAF suppliers and other IATA Strategic Partners to discuss the industry's priorities and agree on actions to enhance efficiency and productivity, and better understand what the airline commitment to deliver on the net zero 2050 pledge will mean.” [Program](#)
- The New Weather Institute is an interdisciplinary cooperative and think-tank working to accelerate the rapid transition to a fair economy that thrives within planetary boundaries.

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