Norwegian Association against Noise on Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines

Aircraft are an important source of noise in Europe, and aircraft noise is a growing problem: In Norway, international air traffic doubled in the period 1990–2010, and the domestic traffic more than tripled1 – while the noise per aircraft was only slightly reduced. The same tendency is true for the rest of Europe, though the economic crisis has reduced growth since 2008. The amount of aircraft noise also correlates with the enormous emissions of climate gases and air pollution from aircraft.

We request:
1. Night flights are an important cause of sleep disturbance. Therefore, we want an absolute and unconditional ban on night flights (landing and take-off) at all European airports for an uninterrupted eight-hour interval as a minimum standard of protection for human health.

2. To impose Energy Tax on aviation fuel within the shortest possible time, in the interim to lift the suspension of EU-ETS for aviation.

3. To abolish any form of VAT zero-rating and VAT exemptions of airline tickets and to include aviation into the VAT tax system of the European Union at standard rates;

4. To prohibit any form of incentive at European airports, such as subsidies, kick-backs and rebates, and to ensure that infrastructure services of airports have to be provided on the basis of general, comprehensive and transparent tariffs. We’re willing to make an exception for subsidising rail transport to the airports to reduce the noise and air pollution from car traffic.

On behalf of The Norwegian Association against Noise (Norsk forening mot støy)

Secretary General
Hanne Herrman
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1 https://www.toi.no/getfile.php/mmarkiv/Forskningsprogram/RVU/Faktaark-RVU%202009-Flytrafikk%20og%20lange%20reiser.pdf