



Agenda Item: 12	Reference: HACC.426
Date: May 15 2005	
Consultation by the Commission of the European Commission – “Reducing the Climate Change Impact of Aviation”	

Report by the Technical Adviser

1. Attempts have been made on several occasions in the past to persuade the Transport Directorate of the European Commission to include the HACC amongst those organisations with which discussions are held or consultations invited on a variety of measures relating to aviation, but without success.
2. The Commission took the view that it wanted to deal with organisations representative of a number of member interests rather than a single interest group no matter how widespread its views or membership were.
3. Since an increasing amount of legislation continues to pour out of the EU, some with very important implications for transport and the environment, there is a need to keep abreast of this activity.
4. In March 2005, surprisingly and for the first time, we received a copy of an EU questionnaire in preparation for a policy document dealing with the “Climate Change Impact of Aviation” . This was to have been discussed at a sub-committee meeting of the HACC to be held on 26 April but which, due to lack of support, had to be cancelled.
5. The questionnaire was in two forms, one for organisations to respond to and the other for individuals. It was designed to offer a standard set of questions under a succession of headings which offered only “tick” questions for answers. This gave no opportunity for shadings of opinions.

TEXT OF THE CONSULTATION

6. The document, published by the Environment Commissioner, recognises that air transport performs many important functions in modern societies and that aviation facilitates economic and cultural exchanges and is a significant source of employment and growth in many regions. However, aviation also contributes to global climate change and it’s contribution is increasing.

While the EU's total greenhouse gas emissions fell by 3% from 1900 to 2002, emissions from international aviation increased with almost 70%. Even though there have been significant improvements to aircraft technology and operational efficiency this has not been enough to neutralise the effect of increased traffic, and the growth in emissions is likely to continue in the decades to come.

7. The EU invited opinions and views on aviation's contribution to climate change and possible ways to reduce it. Views submitted will be an input for a Communication which the Commission plans to issue in July 2005. The Communication will draw policy conclusions and recommend a way forward to reduce aviation's climate change impact.
8. It is intended that the results of the survey will be published on [http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice_during May 2005](http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice_during_May_2005).
9. Responses could only be submitted by returning the questionnaire by e-mail and this resulted in an immediate acknowledgement which compressed the information given into a much smaller and not so well laid out format. A copy is attached to this report for the information of Members. A further report will be submitted when the EU publishes the promised Communication.