

ACI EUROPE

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Airport industry's carbon reduction programme named among top 3 low carbon projects for Europe

For immediate release

8 November 2013

Copenhagen: The airport industry's efforts to address its carbon emissions were highly commended last night at the annual global Sustainia Awards ceremony in Copenhagen. As part of this year's event, the EU Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard announced the finalists and winner of the European Commission's **World You Like** contest.

The voluntary climate change initiative **Airport Carbon Accreditation** was named **one of the top 3 low carbon projects for Europe**, out of 269 entries. It was recognised as an efficient and innovative climate solution that is making a real difference in helping airports address their CO2 emissions.

Collecting the 'Finalist' award from Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, **Olivier Jankovec, Director General ACI EUROPE** said "We are delighted that Airport Carbon Accreditation has won this distinction at Sustainia tonight. We launched this programme 4 years ago during the worst trading conditions, but our faith was quickly rewarded by solid uptake from airports all around Europe and beyond. This is a fantastic recognition for the 90 airports that are currently certified under the programme - for their on-going work to map, reduce, optimise and ultimately neutralise their carbon emissions."

He added "The recent ICAO Assembly confirmed the ambitious climate agenda of the entire air transport sector, supporting the development of a global market-based measure as part of a comprehensive action plan. As the face of aviation on the ground, airports are fully committed to addressing their carbon footprints – this is also part of a being a good neighbour serving the economic & social needs of their communities. Airport Carbon Accreditation frames, supports and incentivises the collective work that airports are doing to make their operations more carbon efficient and their business more sustainable."

Airport Carbon Accreditation is institutionally-endorsed¹ and has already won praise from ICAO, UNEP and the EU's Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas. Independently administered by leading global sustainability consultancy WSP Environment & Energy, it has established itself as the airport industry's global standard for carbon management.

In Europe, 77 airports in 24 countries are currently certified at one of the 4 available levels of certification ('Mapping', 'Reduction', 'Optimisation' and 'Neutrality'), including 14 that are carbon neutral. Combined with the certification of 12 airports in the Asia-Pacific region of ACI and 1 airport in ACI Africa's region, the programme now comprises **90 certified airports**. These airports **welcome around 22% of global air passenger traffic** every year.

In year 4 of the programme (June 2012 to May 2013), the collective reduction achieved was over 170,000 tonnes of CO2, enough energy to power 71,000 households for a year.

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The **World You Like Contest** is an EU-wide contest to find the best projects and programmes which help bring society closer to a low carbon economy. This year's contest had 269 entries, which were narrowed down to a shortlist of 10, after a public vote lasting 5 weeks. An independent jury deliberated over the shortlist of 10 and its final verdict was announced at Sustainia last night.

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Notes for Editors:

A ZIP file with photo from the ceremony can be downloaded from <http://bit.ly/1dRKsoo>

For more information, including details of the requirements of each of the 4 levels of certification & a full list of accredited airports: www.airportcarbonaccredited.org

The official press release of the World You Like campaign/contest is here: <http://world-you-like.europa.eu/en/newsroom/news/portuguese-project-crowned-best-climate-solution-in-european-competition/> with details of the overall winner: Sown Biodiverse Pastures

The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) has estimated that aviation's total CO₂ emissions account for 2% of global emissions' impact on climate change. Of that figure, airports' own operations only account for up to 5%, but European airports are keen to tackle their greenhouse gas emissions – several individual airports operators having already committed to becoming carbon neutral in the past few years with some having already achieved this.

¹The programme is endorsed by ECAC (European Civil Aviation Conference) and EUROCONTROL (European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation) and is overseen by an independent Advisory Board including representatives of the European Commission, ECAC, EUROCONTROL, ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation), UNEP (United Nations Environmental Programme) and Manchester Metropolitan University.

For information about aviation and the environment please go to: www.enviro.aero

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.5 billion passengers each year.