



## PRESS UPDATE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**17 JUNE 2007**

### **Anti-airport expansion cyclists stop traffic at airport entrance**

Police stopped traffic on the A38 outside the entrance to Bristol International Airport on Saturday as over 30 cyclists circled the roundabout at the airport's entrance to highlight the 2nd European Day of Action on Aviation focus on short-haul flights.

Demonstrating simultaneously with many anti-airport expansion groups around the UK and Europe - including Heathrow, Gatwick, Southampton, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam - the cyclists were illustrating how short haul flights could easily be replaced by other forms of travel that produce significantly fewer CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

SBAE spokesperson Susan Pearson said:

*"We were delighted with today's turnout. The fact that over 30 cyclists were prepared to brave the threat of torrential rain to cycle a 9 mile route from Bristol Temple Meads to BIA to demonstrate against short haul flights shows the growing awareness of the conflict between increasing these flights and the Government's commitment to cut greenhouse gases.*

*"We are not campaigning against people taking annual holidays with their families but we believe that at a time when it has never been more crucial to tackle climate change, a responsible leadership should be encouraging the public to take fewer flights, not more. The widely publicised technological improvements to aircraft will never be enough to reduce more than a fraction of the environmental damage caused by aeroplanes."*

The cyclists gathered at Temple Meads to emphasise that although travel by train produces significantly less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than travel by air, the Government is focused on airport expansion while giving no encouragement for improving capacity of the rail network.

While our local airport is doubling and tripling its passengers our local rail network is at capacity with no hope of expansion. Local train services cannot be increased without the re-signalling of Temple Meads Station, a capital project which does not even appear in Network Rail's current investment plan.

At the end of the route, at the roundabout at the entrance to the airport, the cyclists displayed images of sacks of coal to show how much more CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by short haul flying than travelling by train. The Edinburgh flight has been chosen as an example.

An individual choosing to travel by train from Bristol to Edinburgh will be responsible for 78% less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than they would produce by travelling to Edinburgh by plane. A person travelling to Edinburgh by plane produces the equivalent of 311kg of CO<sub>2</sub>, over 4.5 times the 67kg of CO<sub>2</sub> they would produce from travelling by train

**ENDS**

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For more information on Stop Bristol Airport Expansion, visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)