



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**8 October 2008**

## **Airport plans knocked as new government advice raises the bar on climate change targets**

Bristol airport's plans for expansion have hit a new obstacle as Government advisers say [7 October] the UK must cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 and should include emissions from international flights and shipping.

Campaigners opposing the expansion of Bristol airport have strongly welcomed the new targets outlined by the Government-appointed Committee on Climate Change (CCC) and are calling on planning authority North Somerset council to recognise that Bristol airport's expansion must be constrained to prevent increased pressure on other industries.

The Climate Change Committee, Gordon Brown's reference point on climate change led by former CBI head Lord Adair Turner, has also advised that if CO<sub>2</sub> cannot be cut sufficiently from flying and shipping, other industries will have to make up the shortfall.

The UK and local council target for cutting CO<sub>2</sub> has been 60% by 2050 and until now has not included international aviation and shipping.

Stop Bristol Airport Expansion campaigner Jeremy Birch said: "If Bristol airport's expansion goes ahead it will make reaching the 80% target much tougher for the rest of us.

"The price for expanding airports will be bigger cuts by other industries, reducing the competitiveness of the rest of the economy.

"North Somerset Council will need to consider the rest of industry when it comes to make a planning decision on Bristol airport's expansion."

Parliament is soon expected to pass the Climate Change Bill to provide for the setting of the UK's carbon budgets. The first carbon budget will be published by the Climate Change Committee in early December.

**ENDS**

For media enquiries, contact Susan Pearson on: 07891 460942 or [susan@wordways.co.uk](mailto:susan@wordways.co.uk)

For further information on SBAE visit: [www.stopbia.com](http://www.stopbia.com)

### **Notes for editors**

The letter from the Climate Change Committee to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate change can be found at: <http://www.theccc.org.uk>