

2017 – ANNUAL REPORT



UNION EUROPEENNE CONTRE LES NUISANCES AERIENNES
EUROPEAN UNION AGAINST AIRCRAFT NUISANCES

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LES NUISANCES AERIENNES

EUROPEAN UNION AGAINST
AIRCRAFT NUISANCES

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A non-profit association
Association sans but lucratif

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FOREWORD

UECNA is the only pan-European non-governmental organisation, representing citizens overflowed by aircraft at low altitude. We speak for them in many instances, mostly at European institutions level. UECNA is member of expert groups of the European Commission and participates in aviation stakeholders groups.

Aviation is booming and this high trend will remain steady for many years to come. In this environment, it is very difficult for the citizens to be heard. Economic impacts and employment are often the only moto even though they do not take into account external factors such as social impact on the communities and on the municipalities suffering from aircraft nuisances nor the health impact from noise and from the emission of toxic pollutants.

We must accept that we are working on the long term and that European regulations and any amendments and improvements for the benefit of the communities to directives take a long time.

2017 has been an intensive year with our participation in several conferences on ultra-fine particles, on noise and on aviation nuisance in general. We also became member of the Noise Expert Group set up by DG Environment of the European Commission to work on the environmental noise directive CE/2002/49.

2018 will see a new expansion of our activities with our participation in ICAO's work on noise as observers for ICSA (International Coalition for a Sustainable Aviation) and we also applied to become a member of the ECAC Environmental Forum.

As we have increased travel expenses, we are now facing a difficult financial situation as the membership fees are not sufficient to cover our costs. We received donations from some of our members but their amounts will cover only part of the costs of attending ICAO-CAEP meetings. We need more financing for UECNA to move to a more modern and efficient organisation.

Today, no-one at UECNA receives a salary, we all work on a voluntary basis. If we want to be more professional, we will need to employ one or ideally two persons.

We must find new funding, from our members and from foundations. We need your help!



Dominique Lazarski
President of UECNA
since March 2015

ACTIVITIES IN 2017



ACTIVITIES IN 2017

1. Stakeholders and Expert groups

1.1 Connectivity

The main discussion within the industry stakeholders was on connectivity. The connections available at an airport is an indication of how the region depending from that airport is connected to the rest of the world. An index is being developed by Eurocontrol and the industry.

Several meetings were held at Eurocontrol, the European Economic and Social Committee and at the European Observatory on Airport Capacity and Quality on this subject.

Although we try to emphasise the need to use fast rail instead of short distance flights, it is still difficult for the aviation industry to hear that short distances can be covered by rail instead of planes.

This could be the case now in the Netherlands but only because Schiphol airport has reached its maximum capacity and there is yet no secondary airport in Amsterdam able to take over the excess traffic.

1.2 Noise

The first Noise Expert Group to which we were asked to participate was held on 30 November 2017. The members are the member states, independent experts and organisations acting in the fields of road, rail and aviation environmental noise. The aim of the group is to work towards the improvement of the Environmental Noise Directive CE/2002/49.

The directive being very weakly applied by some member states, we request a direct application of all its terms, the noise levels being the same in all countries (just like the regulation on air pollution), and based on the WHO recommendations. It is also necessary to use an event based index to better reflect the annoyance due to aviation noise. Other requests cover the progressive diminution of night flights to aim at 8-hours quiet nights for all and the inclusion of UECNA in the decision making process for all regulations relating to aviation and having an impact on communities.

We also attended the first ECAC Environmental Forum mid-December. We must participate in all these meetings. With the revival of supersonic aircraft we must do whatever is possible to



No night flights, a demonstration of our British members

obtain stringent standards so that supersonic aircraft cannot be noisier than subsonic.

In the same line, we have asked ICSA (International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation) to accept UECNA as a member and appoint 2 persons to participate in the noise working groups of the ICAO's CAEP (Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection).

1.3 European aviation environment report

The European Environment Agency, EASA and Eurocontrol have produced the European Aviation Environmental Report in 2016. This is a good document that we frequently use as a reference when speaking to aviation outsiders as are many of our national politicians or members of the administration and governments.



A second edition will be issued towards the end of 2018 with updated data and information. UECNA has been asked to participate in the stakeholders group consulted on the new edition.

We made comments on the 2016 edition and will propose an article to be included in the new issue.

2. Conferences and Workshops

We were asked to speak at several conferences and workshops during 2017:

- (i) 23 March – Belgium - Airport Regions Conference - ARC, a workshop on ultra-fine particles, we presented the adverse impact of UFPs on health for the communities around airports
- (ii) 24 April – Belgium - European Commission, the Noise Conference, an event organised by DG Environment which can still be watched on their website (a link can be found on UECNA's website). We were asked to present the improvements the citizens affected by aircraft noise wished to make to the environmental noise directive CE/2002/49.



Working with the European Commission

(iii) 5 July – France - Université du Transport Aérien – UTA, (Air Transport University), a course organised by the French National School for Civil Aviation and the French Civil Aviation administration. We presented the situation of the citizens affected by aviation nuisance.

(iv) 28 November – France - Centre d'Information et de Documentation sur le Bruit – CIDB. National Conference on Noise : The theme was on urbanisation around airports.

3. Working with Others

Because we do not yet have the resources required to address all the aspects of aviation nuisances, we are members of other NGO's with which we find a complementarity.

3.1 Transport and Environment

We have been a sponsor member of T&E for several years now and we found within this NGO a team of professionals specialised in aviation emissions and climate change. We have built a special relationship with them as their work is complementary to ours.

We need them to help us on climate change issues but they also need us to relay their campaigns when they are linked to aviation. Our members should speak with their members of the European parliament and local representatives.

3.2 European Environmental Bureau

We had been a member of EEB in the past, left them but decided to join them again in 2017 to work on noise.

Being a member of the Noise Expert Group of the European Commission made us realise that aviation noise could bear similarities to rail noise for instance. We decided to build a team within EEB working on environmental noise. We will work on this in 2018.

3.3 UECNA's Members

Of course, we are involved with our members and our members can help us too.

We need our members to help us to relay our campaigns in the EU member states and beyond, we also work closely with our members from Switzerland.

We can support actions that are initiated in the members states and brought to a European level. For instance, French associations and municipalities sued the French State for its failure to implement properly the environmental noise directive. Similar actions could be undertaken in other states as only 43% of the action plans have been implemented for large airports in Europe.



Noise in Europe Conference – 24 April 2017

4. Communication

In January we revitalised and updated our website. In February we started our Twitter account. In April, at the AGM, we launched a new brochure. All this enabled us to strengthen our presentation to the outside world and enhance our reputation.

By spending more time on digital communication, it became easier to establish new contacts with organizations throughout Europe and beyond.

We met many of the participants at the Noise Conference in April. This resulted in invitations and new encounters, which greatly increased our network.

As a result, we became a member of several European organizations. A snowball effect.

UECNA ORGANISATION



OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

UECNA's participation to the European Commission's Noise Conference was a good opportunity to be better known and to communicate on our activities.

As a result, we gained several new members and friends.

This is not enough as there is still a certain number of European countries not represented in our organisation. We know that the language may be a barrier but surely we can find a solution if you do not speak German, Greek,

Dutch, Spanish, Swedish.

We represent today approximately 300,000 European Citizens and we are proud to also have friends in Montreal, Canada.

We know that thanks to Twitter citizens suffering from aviation nuisance and organisations follow us in many countries outside Europe. The adverse impacts of noise and air pollution are identical wherever you live, the annoyance and loss of quality of life is the same.

THE BOARD

Since 2015, some of our "historic" board members decided to resign for personal reasons. Thank you Lony, Véronique and Tarcis for your hard work and involvement in UECNA. We also sadly suffered the loss of our treasurer for many years, Leopold Wagner. He had been a good friend to his fellow board members, we miss him.

UECNA's board saw new members joining, willing to give time and work on aircraft nuisance. The board meets every month by telephone conference (first Tuesday of the month) and holds one meeting a year, generally in Brussels. In 2018, we will try to meet four times a year.

Composition of the Board, as of April 2017 :

President	Dominique Lazarski
Secretary	Martin Kessel
Treasurer	Manfred Peter
Webmaster	Wouter Looman
Member	Eleftheria Emfietzi
Member	Mike Gerard
Member	Alain Peri

