

PRESS RELEASE

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## Another broken promise BAA?

**'it [BAA] will welcome being held to strict noise and pollution controls.'**

NoTRAG has condemned Colin Matthews' words as those of a discredited company. A company which told us it didn't want a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow – a company which promised flights would not exceed 480,000 a year – a company which tells us it is 'a good neighbour.'

The residents around Heathrow know better. Since 2002 the aviation industry and the Government have been working towards a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow. Current EU pollution limits cannot be met, limits coming into effect in 2010 will be more stringent.

*"Already the residents around Heathrow suffer more than any other residents around a major international airport"*<sup>1</sup>

And now to ensure a Spanish construction company can go ahead and bulldoze an English village – a Spanish construction company can make our lives hell with the abolition of runway alternation and a near 50% increase in flights – Colin Matthews tells us his employers will keep to new rules!

The economic argument for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Runway at Heathrow is not compelling<sup>2</sup> – the environmental and social consequences are unthinkable in a democracy.<sup>3</sup>

Christine Shilling, Press Secretary commented "We have news for Colin Matthews and this Government. You have lost all credibility. A 3<sup>rd</sup> runway at Heathrow will devastate communities; exceed pollution criteria and subject 150,000 other West Londoners to excessive unendurable noise."

Geraldine Nicholson, Chair of NoTRAG added, "BAA has a history of broken promises. Listening to Colin Matthews this morning he was not clear what promises had been made by his predecessors. In that case, we can have no confidence that Mr Matthews' successors in the future will remember what he has said today, this is just another promise set to be broken.

Matthews also kept saying it was question of trust. How right he is, it *is* about trust and quite frankly we don't trust anything that BAA says. It's a nice try to suppress the public support we are getting but BAA must realise now that the public no longer believes them."

John Stewart, Chair of HACAN said of today's announcement by BAA, "This is clearly a sign of a desperate organisation. The economic case is unconvincing and the environmental case is overwhelming. BAA knows this and is now struggling to find a way to keep its expansion plans afloat."

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<sup>1</sup> Roy Vandermeer at T5 enquiry

<sup>2</sup> CE Delft report: November 2007

<sup>3</sup> Heathrow Expansion: Impact of a 3<sup>rd</sup> runway and 6<sup>th</sup> terminal on local residents (NoTRAG November 2008).