

## Letter to The Independent newspaper 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Sir,

UK airlines recognise their environmental responsibilities and want to play their part in addressing the issue of climate change. The airlines are actively engaged in considering how aviation could participate in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme which currently includes 50% of EU emissions. Including aviation would capture up to another 5%. Such a scheme would be the most environmental and economically efficient method of tackling CO2 emissions. It would also observe the “polluter pays” principle as it would impose an extra cost on airlines and their passengers.

The article last week by Caroline Lucas (“Airlines must lose their right to pollute the skies”, Thursday 22nd June) and today’s letter from Alistair Carmichael, Caroline Lucas and others obsess about the emissions of one particular industry rather than considering total global emissions. It is the global picture which determines how we respond to climate change, not the contributions of just one industry.

Sadly, Ms Lucas seems to measure success only by how expensive she can make air travel, and both she and today’s signatories forget the contribution that air travel makes to the economies of the UK and the wider world. Rather than undermining efforts of emitting industries to work together, they should be encouraging constructive collaboration on this important global issue.

Emissions trading is an important part of the UK aviation industry’s Sustainable Aviation strategy ([www.sustainableaviation.co.uk](http://www.sustainableaviation.co.uk)). The British Air Transport Association urges the signatories and their organisations to join with us in pressing for an effective emissions trading scheme that would allow aviation to play its part in sustainable economic growth.

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