



April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Airlines4Europe and its member airlines,

Earlier this month, Ryanair's CEO Michael O'Leary commented on Irish radio that he does not "accept the connection between carbon consumption and climate change<sup>1</sup>." In doing so, he puts himself in conflict with the 97% of peer-reviewed climate scientists who believe that human activity has a direct link with rising global temperatures.

He also puts himself in conflict with the scores of governments which have ratified the Paris Agreement and which have pledged to take ambitious climate action. Incredibly, he has even put himself in conflict with CEOs of oil majors such as ExxonMobil and Shell who, while not exactly championing action on climate change, at least accept the principles of climate science.

In the coming months, the EU will decide on the future terms for aviation's inclusion in its Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). Work will also continue on developing the International Civil Aviation Organisation's global market-based measure (known as CORSIA). Much of the lobbying on these issues will be conducted by your association, AirlinesforEurope (A4E). Not only is Ryanair a member of your association, but it is the largest member.

In the interests of transparency, we believe European Union institutions, member states and stakeholders should know whether the climate denialism of Mr O'Leary is also shared by your airlines and A4E. When you engage in lobbying, we believe everyone should know whether they are working with an honest partner, or someone who flatly rejects the overwhelming consensus of climate science. We also believe your customers would appreciate knowing where you stand on this critical issue.

We therefore call on your airlines, and A4E, to state publicly whether you accept the overwhelming evidence of climate change, and the resulting need to take ambitious action, or whether you are partners in Mr O'Leary's reckless climate denialism.

We look forward to your response.

On behalf of Climate Action Network Europe and Transport & Environment,

Yours sincerely,

William Todts

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Todts', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

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<sup>1</sup> Irish Times, 08/04/2017 "[Michael O'Leary says he 'does not accept climate change is real'](#)"