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THEMATIC MEETINGS
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International conference

En route to sustainable aviation: from climate science to mitigation policies

Abstract

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New large scale, uncertainty-aware airline-led contrail avoidance trials: results, lessons learnt and prospects

From February to April 2026, Air France conducted a contrail avoidance trial covering 4300 commercial flights operated over the North Atlantic, a region particularly well suited to studying these phenomena. The trial was carried out in collaboration with Estuaire and Klima, two French start-ups developing solutions to reduce aviation's climate impact and serving as Air France's technology and operational partners.

Through this testing program, Air France pursued the objective to assess, under real-world operating conditions, the feasibility of flight path adjustments designed to reduce their climate impact. Based on analyses drawing notably on weather conditions, Air France teams identified 245 flights with a high potential climate impact, for which alternative flight paths were calculated and assessed. Of these, 130 flights were effectively rerouted. The results, lessons learnt and prospects of this trial will be shared during the conference.