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

Abstract

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Economic approach to sustainable aviation in Europe

Aviation responds to a need for long distance connections. Sustainability requires aviation to take into account local environmental issues (noise, Nox,..) as well as global environmental issues (climate) into account. When this is done in a smart way, there will be a minimal impact on aviation volume. While victims can have governance control on local issues, this is not the case for climate because international agreements are not enforceable.

The EU goes for smart instruments (ETS) and less smart instruments (SAF). The major climate policy instrument for the EU remains ETS (high prices), subsidies for non-CO_2 abatement and R&D support for carbon efficiency that allow the EU to export more fuel efficient aircraft to the rest of the world. Although the rest of the world is non-cooperative, their willingness to pay for sustainable aviation is expected to grow.