

# AIRPORT REGIONS CONFERENCE



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

# A turbulent year

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**A**VIATION HAS SEEN a turbulent year in 2008. Fuel prices were a major concern for the airlines and heavily impacted on the economics of airline companies. Financial turbulence in the global economy also impacted on the aviation sector. The slow down in the economy resulted in a substantial drop in passenger numbers and a decrease in air freight and movements compared to 2007. A number of airlines have over the year not been strong enough to handle the crisis and have been forced to close down operations. From a regional perspective this has to some extent impacted on the connectivity of regions with cancelled destinations.

In this troublesome time it is even more important to consider aviation and regional development issues. Airport regions have an essential role in bringing Europe back to prosperity again. It is even more important in these difficult times to keep up the links between European regions and to learn more about aviation and how to address the changes that will come with the implementation of the second phase of the Single European Sky. New technologies in Air Traffic Management can have a positive impact on our regions. After the recession, demand will recover and this will require additional capacity at airports. This will of course have an impact on all airport regions and



Anne Devitt,  
President ARC

now is the time to prepare. For these reasons it is vital that we adopt a proactive approach to aviation and to the promotion of sustainable development in our regions.

THE AVIATION SECTOR has taken a more active role in the climate change challenge, and this we welcome. Airline manufacturers have tested bio fuels with promising results. Research programmes have been launched within the 7th Framework gathering the industry and research centres in a common approach to reduce emissions. The airports are developing an environmental certification scheme called “Green Airports.” The SESAR project has entered the development phase that will produce new technological systems and components to modernise Air Traffic Management and rationalise airspace with the potential of reducing fuel burn.

These developments align very well with the ARC

ambition to address climate change in airport regions. This has resulted in a process with involvement from many members and intensive discussions to elaborate a position. The position paper Climate Change and Airport Regions was approved by the Annual General Meeting to guide our future activities in the field.

IN MARCH 2008 the EU-US agreement on the Open Skies came into effect. Its first result showed an increase in transatlantic flights with a focus on European hub airports. But other European destinations also benefitted from the new agreement.

In a longer term perspective the European Commission and the aviation industry have a major concern about how to provide capacity to accommodate the projected growth in the air transport sector. The long awaited European Observatory on Airport Capacity was finally launched in November. The Observatory will in the coming five years provide advice to the Commission on how to address the capacity crunch. The Observatory will focus on capacity in the air and on the ground. ARC is represented in the Observatory and will take on the role as rapporteur on Intermodality at Airports.

2008 WAS OUR first year with a new strategy, focussing on project development and lobbying. This first year has proved the vitality of the new strategy, with the support and participation of members in various activities showing that aviation is growing in importance in all regions hosting an international airport.

ARC has taken an active stand on several European issues in 2008, including the Commission’s hearing on Slots Allocation, the Green Paper on Urban Mobility, the follow-up on the revision of the Noise Directive and Integrated Air-Rail Ticketing. There have also been several opportunities and occasions where ARC has met representatives from the Commission and the aviation industry.

WE ARE HAPPY to welcome three new members in 2008 – the City of Rotterdam and the Helsinki Uusimaa Region along with SALAR (the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions). The Land Brandenburg has also announced its interest in joining in 2009.

I THANK THE MEMBERS of the ARC for their active involvement during 2008 and I look forward to another successful year for the organisation in 2009. ■■

## Secretariat report

THE ANNUAL GENERAL Meeting in 2007 agreed on a new strategy for 2008-2010. The strategy focuses on project development and lobbying. Information and recruitment of new members are also given priority. The strategy mentions twelve key issues for ARC to address.

ARC is a vital organisation with members taking active part in ARC activities. More than 50 percent of the members have on one or more occasions taken part in projects, lobbying activities or meetings to promote ARC.



*Active members characterise the ARC. Here at the Annual General Meeting in Madrid.*

## Lobbying

The Secretariat has in 2008 paid more attention to the lobbying activities and thus gained a higher profile in Brussels and Europe. ARC is indisputably considered to be the voice of the cities and regions in aviation- and airport related matters today.

ARC has taken an active stand on several European issues in 2008: the Commission's hearing on Slots Allocation, the Green Paper on Urban Mobility, the follow-up on the revision of the Noise Directive and Integrated Air-Rail Ticketing. There have also been several opportunities and occasions where ARC has met representatives from the Commission and the aviation industry. Generally, the views reflected by ARC are a welcome input to the debate of today.

An important step during 2008 was the development of a position on Climate Change which was elaborated with participation of several members and approved by the Annual General Meeting.

Of the twelve key issues in the Strategy, nine has been addressed either in lobbying activities or projects.

## Project development

The project portfolio has developed well. The role of the Secretariat has been to support the lead partners in discussing project plans, organising project meetings, publishing and promoting results and other activities.

The Secretariat has also successfully marketed the projects to potential ARC members and external partners including the European Commission.

## Information

ARC is frequently asked to participate in various meetings and conferences, sharing our views and experiences. The Secretariat, with support from the Executive Committee and project leaders, actively introduced ARC and our activities to industry representatives and regions in Europe.

A number of cities and regions have visited ARC in Brussels to learn more about our work and to share their concern about aviation and regional development.

In 2008 a new website was developed to facilitate a more project oriented organisation and to meet the need for easy access to information. This means that the flow of data was restructured to less printed and more web based information.

In collaboration with the ACI, our members have access to a direct flow of news related to aviation and regional development.

The demand for ARC studies has been numerous and some older studies are now out of stock.

The new strategy was published and distributed in the beginning of 2008. The first reports from the QLAIR project and Surface Access studies was issued at the AGM in November, together with the ARC position on Climate Change in Airport Regions.

## New members

The Executive Committee members have an important role to support the Secretariat in introducing ARC to potential new members. The Executive Committee has set out to annually recruit three new members.

There have been several informal occasions to promote the ARC to potential members. Many contacts have been established with potential member regions according to the recruitment plan.

We were happy to welcome three new members in 2008, The City of Rotterdam from the Netherlands, the Uusimaa (Helsinki) Regional Council from Finland and a new associated member in the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR.

The Land Brandenburg, Gemany, has also announced its interest to join in 2009. ■■

*Secretary General  
Bengt Christensson  
Göteborg Region*



# Project development



## The Airport Regions Mediation Competence Centre in Vienna (ARMCC-Vie)

THE OBJECTIVE OF the project is to establish a competence center for participatory planning and mediation procedures in airport regions. The first task is the collection of data and information on participatory planning procedures, citizen participation procedures, and mediation procedures in airport regions. The second and long term task is the provision of advisory services to airport regions. The basic idea of the project is to provide a website as a joint information and learning platform for all ARC regions.

The project started in the beginning of the year 2008 with the development of the draft website concept. It was agreed with the ARC members to keep the website short and simple. A first concept was presented at the ARC Half Yearly meeting in Tallinn. The concept included three sections:

Section one for general information about the ARMCC-VIE project (objectives, website structure, ARC members, management board etc.). A second section for basic information about ARC airport regions and their airports and a third section for the collected papers and information on participatory planning procedures, citizen participation procedures, and mediation procedures in airport regions.

Section two and three are part of the members' area of the website.

In the second half of 2008 the project activities concentrated on the development of the ARMCC-VIE website and content collection. At the annual meeting of ARC

in Madrid the beta version of the website was presented with all functions up and running. The ARC members were invited to start uploading or send content to the Mediation Centre.

The activities since the ARC annual meeting now concentrate on content collection. The desk research and data mining process will continue in 2009 with more information from ARC members and other airport mediation processes worldwide.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Wolfgang Hesina, Tel +43 1 7007 25 251, [w.hesina@dialogforum.at](mailto:w.hesina@dialogforum.at) ■■



Wolfgang Hesina,  
Project manager,  
Dialogforum, Vienna

## Climate Change and Surface Access

A PROJECT GROUP developed a pilot study to investigate the relation between greenhouse gases in airport regions and surface access to airports. The analysis found that the carbon contribution from surface access journeys to and from the airport were equal to the emissions from airport activities, including the land and take off cycle of the aircraft. This study gave important input to support the ARC position statement on climate change, which was approved at the Annual General Meeting.

The pilot study was introduced to and recognised by the European Commission Observatory on airport capacity. It will form the baseline for new projects and be an element in the Observatory work on intermodality at airports. The collaboration with the Observatory will be a five-year programme, but in the first year will rely mostly on surface access studies already approved by the ARC membership.

The key findings in the pilot study clearly indicate the importance for all stakeholders in airport regions to actively and jointly engage in reducing greenhouse gases. This work will be developed during 2009 by extending the analysis to other examples of airports, particularly those where most of the air trips are in bound to the region, for example holiday destinations. From this we will develop a 'door to door' perspective on carbon emissions associated with air travel. The output will provide guidance for ARC member regions that can be used in discussions with airport operators, surface transport providers and other stakeholders.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Roger Jones, tel +44 1243 777 054 at [roger.jones@westsussexgov.uk](mailto:roger.jones@westsussexgov.uk)



*Roger Jones,  
Project manager, West Sussex*

## Quality of Life in Airport Regions (QLAIR)

THE QLAIR PROJECT is addressing the need for new and innovative ways to improve the quality of life for the citizens most affected in the current situation and in relation to airport expansion. The project identifies how instruments for mitigation, compensation and investments can meet this situation and improve the living conditions.

Eight ARC members participated in the QLAIR project for 2008:

- Schiphol Region (Province of Noord-Holland, Municipality of Haarlemmermeer)
- London Gatwick Region (West Sussex County Council)
- Frankfurt Region (Planungsverband Ballungsraum Frankfurt/Rhein Main)
- Barcelona Region (El Prat de Llobregat)
- Dublin Region (Fingal County Council)
- Warsaw Region (Mazovia Province)
- Mallorca Region (Conseil de Mallorca)
- Paris Region (Department de Val d'Oise)

These members are working closely together with the Institute for Urban Planning and Development of the Ile-de-France Region.

In 2008 the first report "Key-elements" was finalized. In 2009 this report will be translated into several languages.

In October the four short term projects were launched (Information and Communication, Compensation, Ground Noise and Impact of ATM on Spatial Planning) and will be executed in 2009. The results will be presented at the ARC Biennial Conference on 3 and 4 December '09 in Amsterdam.

The project plans for the long-term projects (the Value of Safeguarding Optimal Land Use around the

Airport Area, Applying Flexibility in Noise Restricted Areas and Investment in Public Facilities) will be developed. The possibilities for European funding will be explored.

The European Commission Observatory on airport capacity showed interest in the project and will assess the initiative in its forthcoming meetings.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project lead partner Ine Kuipers, Tel: +31 23 514 38 68, at [kuipersf@noord-holland.nl](mailto:kuipersf@noord-holland.nl)



*Ine Kuipers  
Project manager QLAIR  
Noord Holland*

## Noise and Environment

Airport regions and ARC members have over the years been engaged in discussing noise nuisance caused by airports and airport-related business. Within the European Union, the total number of passengers carried by air has significantly grown over the past years. This extremely rapid development in the aviation sector brings in its wake an increase in airport noise pollution, particularly for the surrounding populations over which aircraft take off and land.

Aircraft noise abatement and mitigation therefore is a main task for ARC and its members. ARC is monitoring the revision of the European Directives 2002/30 and 2002/49 with regard to the introduction of noise-related operation restrictions at airports and the management of environmental noise. ARC welcomed the recognition on the role of regions in this field made by the Commission in its report on the application of Directive 2002/30/EC. This report echoes largely the recommendations made by the airport regions in May 2007, after the conference on noise nuisance in Brussels. The revision of the Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) will be launched in



*Joachim Wempe*  
Group leader, Frankfurt

2009, hence an ongoing dialogue with DG Environment and other interested parties continues. ARC therefore has an open discussion with the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) to collaborate on this topic.

Noise also plays a major role in ARC's QLAIIR project (Quality of Life in Airport Regions), which focuses on including ground noise in airport nuisance reduction policies, the impact of Air Traffic Management (ATM) technology and compensation measures and governance as well.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Joachim Wempe, tel +49 69 2577 1435 at [joachim.wempe@planungsverband.de](mailto:joachim.wempe@planungsverband.de) ■■

## Open skies and air service development

THE SUCCESSFUL ARC project STRAIR was terminated in 2007. In 2008 a number of ARC members investigated a follow up project, SICAR, looking closer into cluster development and economic opportunities in airport regions. The initiative related to the deregulation of the aviation market and the Open Skies agreement. Unfortunately the project proposal was not approved for European funding.

After the implementation of the Open Skies agreement in 2008 between EU and the US, ARC has explored the potential of working closer with US organisations to better understand how regions could benefit from the deregulations of the aviation market. Transatlantic route development has the potential to promote closer transatlantic relations and economic growth in airport regions. This approach has been discussed with US organisations similar to the ARC

A new initiative will be taken in 2009 to follow the intention of SICAR and other member initiatives.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Bengt Christensson, tel +46 31 335 5133, [bengt.christensson@airportregions.org](mailto:bengt.christensson@airportregions.org) ■■



*Secretary General*  
*Bengt Christensson*  
Göteborg Region

# Airport Regions E-learning Academy

**T**HE AIREA PROJECT is now halfway through its course and is currently in the middle of technical development of the showcase platform. The project is funded by the Leonardo da Vinci programme of the EU and is targeting professions in airport regions. It examines how open-source web-based technologies can be used in competence development of vocational-level students.

AIREAs long term vision is based on providing the best training from the best trainers in Europe for everyone working in airport related jobs, and being able to allow training to grow using collaborative student tools and modern web 2.0-technology.

The objective for 2009 is to show a potential way of enabling small airports to gain access to the top level trainers and teaching using web 2.0-methods.

Apart from examining the best practices in airport regions and finding out how teaching cultures can be harmonized, the main activity in 2008 was to construct a prototype platform that will show the technical possibilities for modern blended-learning environments. This platform will, fully developed, allow on-site practical training together with distance-based theory in a structure that does more than just present information for the students.



*Karl Alfredsson  
Lead Partner  
Göteborg Region*

The platform is currently undergoing its final stages of technical development. Real courses in airport-related training are being converted into a new learning format in close co-operation with education organizers. Interactive movies, collaborative classroom tools and teacher tools for handling student data are some of the features of the platform, in addition to traditional distance learning functionality.

The project partners will conduct local dissemination throughout the respective regions, in addition to international activities to promote the project findings.

The final dissemination point will coincide with the ARC Biennial Conference in Amsterdam in December 2009.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Karl Alfredsson, tel +46 706 999 450, [karl.alfredsson@grkom.se](mailto:karl.alfredsson@grkom.se) ■ ■



# The Executive Committee

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held four meetings in 2008. All meetings were hosted by ARC members. This is a good opportunity to meet local representatives and share their experiences. The meetings give valuable information on and input to the representative role of the ARC.

The EC has discussed the ARC lobbying position, agreed on project development and overlooked the financial situation. The Presidency has supported the Secretariat in organisational matters and international relations. The future structure of ARC has been on the agenda of the Executive Committee considering the long term development of the organisation.

The EC members actively support the Secretariat with contacts and advice as well as representing ARC when needed.

The Presidency is actively involved in raising the ARC political profile on many occasions in Brussels and elsewhere. This support is very valuable for the Secretariat. ■ ■



*Anne Devitt,  
ARC President,  
Fingal County Council  
(Dublin Region)*



*Sergi Alegre Calero,  
ARC Vice President,  
El Prat de Llobregat  
(Barcelona Region)*



*Heiko Kasseckert,  
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Mazovia Province  
(Warsaw Region)*



*Agneta Granberg,  
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*Mati Eliste,  
City of Tallinn*



*Erich Valentin,  
City of Vienna*



*Ton Hooijmaijers,  
Noord Holland  
(Amsterdam Region)*



*Derek Whittington,  
West Sussex County  
Council (London  
Gatwick region)*



*Secretary General  
Bengt Christensson,  
Göteborg Region*

# Members of the ARC 2008

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MEMBER REGION	PASSENGERS 2008, MILLIONS	ANNUAL GROWTH	
Amsterdam Schiphol Airport	City of Amsterdam, Province of Noord-Holland, City of Haarlemmermeer	47.4	-0,80%	
Athens International Airports	Prefecture of East Attica	16.4	-0,40%	
Barcelona Airport	Barcelona Regional, Aeroports de Catalunya, El Prat de Llobregat	30.2	-8,10%	
	Girona	5.5	13,60%	
	Reus			
Brussels International Airport	Flanders Region	18.5	3,90%	
Dublin Airport	Fingal County Council	23.5	0,80%	
Frankfurt Airport	Planungsverband Frankfurt Rhein-Main	53.5	-1,30%	
Glasgow Airport	Renfrewshire County Council	8.2	-7,00%	
Göteborg Landvetter Airport	Göteborg Region	4.3	-1,30%	
		City Airport	0.7	-1,75%
		Gran Canaria	10.2	-1,30%
Gran Canaria Airports	Gobierno de Canarias	Tenerife Norte	4.2	2,70%
		Tenerife Sur	8.2	-4,50%
		Lanzarote	5.4	-3,30%
		Fuerteventura	4.5	-3,00%
		La Palma		
Helsinki Vantaa International Airport	City of Vantaa, Uusimaa, Helsinki Region	14.5	1,40%	
London Heathrow	London Borough of Hounslow	67.1	-1,50%	
London Gatwick	West Sussex County Council	34.2	-2,90%	
Madrid Barajas Airport	City of Madrid	50.8	-2,40%	
Malta International Airport	Malta Environment and Planning Authority	3.1	4,70%	
Milan Malpensa Airport	Regione Lombardia	19.2	-19,50%	
		Linate	9.3	-6,70%
		Bergamo	6.5	12,90%
Munich Airport International	Land Bavaria	34.5	1,70%	
		Nuremberg	4.3	0,70%
Oslo Gardermoen Airport	Romerike	19.3	1,50%	
Palma de Mallorca Airport	Conseil de Mallorca	22.8	-1,70%	
		Menorca		
Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport	Val d'Oise, IAU-Ile de France	60.9	1,60%	
		Orly	26.2	-0,90%
Prague Airport Ruzyně	AVAR	12.6	1,60%	
Rotterdam Airport	City of Rotterdam	1.1		
Stockholm Arlanda Airport	Stockholm Region	18.2	1,20%	
		Bromma	1.9	2,80%
Targu Mures Airport	Mures County Council			
Tallinn Airport	City of Tallinn	1.8	4,70%	
Warsaw Frederic Chopin Airport	Mazovia Region	9.5	2,10%	
Vienna International Airport	City of Vienna	19.7	5,20%	
Zürich Airport	City of Zurich	22.1	6,60%	
<b>ASSOCIATED MEMBERS</b>		Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group – SASIG Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions – SALAR		

Statistics: ACI Europe.



## What is the ARC?

- ARC** is the leading European representative organisation for cities and regions with major airports and as such is recognised as a political stakeholder.
- ARC** members represent more than 30 cities and regions from 19 countries and the organisation continues to grow. Our members represent 70 percent of all European regions with airports handling more than 10 million passengers.
- ARC** has a Representative Office in Brussels to inform and promote the ARC to the European Commission and to other European institutions and the aviation industry. This office also provides ARC members with a platform to support member activities and projects.
- ARC** monitors air transport policy development in Europe on behalf of its members.
- ARC** provides a network of expertise for policy development on key topics for airport regions.
- ARC** produces a wide range of studies on topics including economic growth and innovation, transport structures, spatial planning and land use, environmental effects.
- ARC** provides a global network of contacts with similar organisations.
- ARC** stimulates cooperation between members through a stable network of regions with similar structures and who face similar challenges.
- ARC** informs members on how EU policy may affect local policies.
- ARC** informs European institutions about the effect of aviation on the cities and regions in Europe.

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