

# What is the Airport Regions Conference?

**The Airport Regions Conference (ARC)** is an association of cities and regions across Europe with an international airport situated within or near its territory. There are today more than 30 cities and regions in ARC, representing about 100 million citizens, hosting "the big five" airports in Europe (Heathrow, Charles de Gaulle, Frankfurt, Madrid and Amsterdam) along with other major and regional international airports in 18 European countries.

ARC brings together a wide range of expertise at the interface of air transport as well as local and regional policies. A common concern is to balance the economic benefits generated by the airports against their environmental impact, notably the effect on the quality of life of residents.

The ARC members co-operate at the European level to pursue common interests. This means to discuss and formulate positions and other statements that reflect the views of cities and regions in Europe on aviation, regional development and environment. ARC undertakes common initiatives for the exchange of information and best practice among its members. Over the years, the ARC has produced several major studies on topics of great importance for the cities and regions as well as the aviation community.

ARC works in partnership with other key players such as airport operators, airlines, air transport organisations etc, in order to enhance the role of regional and local governments as active partners in the development of European air transport policies.

ARC represents the regional perspective and the views of cities and regions in the European Commission Observatory on airport capacity. ARC is the rapporteur on intermodality at airports. ARC also co-operates with the European Commission Directorates for Transport, Environment and Regional Policy as well as with other European institutions.

## ARC project development

**One of the ARC** main objectives is to enhance aviation-related knowledge and competence in member regions. ARC has adopted a strategy focusing on project development. Based on members' experiences, specific topics are addressed in order to form projects. The outcome of the projects may result in reports or studies, but it could equally result in workshops, seminars or conferences.

ARC project development mainly emanates from ARC member initiatives. Project lead partner is preferably a member region. The Secretariat takes active part in project development and support to the lead partner.

Here follows a short introduction to the ongoing ARC projects:

*Surface Access and Climate Change.* ARC members are concerned with the production of green house gases in airport regions. A pilot study was finalised in 2008 and is followed up in 2010. The study formed the basis for two ARC position papers, "Climate Change in Airport Regions" and "Intermodality in Airport Regions". The project group is advising other European organisations concerning surface access to airports. The project group also assists ARC in the Commission Observatory on Airport Capacity. The aim of this project group is to conduct a long term project addressing several aspects of surface access and climate change.

*Airport Regions Mediation Competence Centre – ARMCC-Vie.* The objective of the project is to establish a European Competence Centre for participatory planning and mediation procedures in airport regions. The centre has made an important effort in collecting information and experiences from airport regions addressing airport development.

The examples are collected from three continents with an emphasis on Europe. Today the database consists of more than 15 examples of mediation processes including relevant facts and figures about the airports and the regions. The draft website, developed in 2008, has been refined during 2009 to meet the objective of easy access to information. The next step is to continue to work with ARC regions to meet the request for easy access and support to ARC members to share experiences and facilitate the dialogue between the different stakeholders and citizens and meet coming demand for increased airport capacity in Europe.

*QLAIR — Quality of Life in Airport Regions.* The QLAIR project is addressing the need for new and innovative ways to improve the quality of life for the citizens most affected by airport activities and airport expansion. The QLAIR project is now in its third phase.

The QLAIR project identifies concrete actions to mitigate and compensate as well

## ARC project development (cont.)

- ▶ as how to invest in areas most affected by airports. The project also looks at the role of air traffic management and its impact on areas close to airports and the relation to spatial planning. With the project results the objective is to find a common European level playing field in addressing airport development in airport communities. The project is assessed by the European Commission Observatory on Airport Capacity.

*AIREA — Airport Regions E-learning Academy.* The project objective has been to deliver a new state of the art platform for e-learning especially designed for vocational training and education in an international environment like aviation. The main task was to understand if it is possible to bring the communities and the aviation industry closer together to improve the job opportunities for the neighbouring communities, especially in regions with small or medium sized airports where training and education opportunities are limited. The project delivered by the end of 2009 a prototype platform for e-learning which was well received by the industry.

The partners now consider a second phase of the project together with industrial stakeholders. In the second phase, the project partners will move from a prototype to a pilot project with real course material, students and teachers.

*Noise.* Airport regions and ARC members have over the years been engaged in the effects of noise nuisance caused by airports and airport-related activities. The 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.

In 2010 ARC will intensify its relations with the European Commission and focus on the outcome of the revision of the noise directive 2002/49 and related issues. The QLAIIR project will continue to focus on ground noise in airport regions in 2011.

## QLAIR – Quality of Life in Airport Regions

**The QLAIR project** is addressing the need for new and innovative ways to improve the quality of life for the citizens most affected by airport activities and airport expansion. The objective of QLAIR is to create competitive airport regions in which economic development, airport capacity and the improvement of the quality of life are equally balanced.

The ARC Biennial Conference in 2009 was based on the QLAIR project concept and delivered important information and insights to the aviation sector from the project. The conference was also the launch of four new reports from the project addressing the main themes; Ground noise, Air traffic management impact on land use planning, Mitigation and compensation and finally Information and communication with citizens. The conference was an opportunity to bring the findings to a wider European audience and to get the results recognised by the industry.

The QLAIR partners agreed in December 2009 to take the next step in the project by moving in two directions: to take the result from the previous work into practise, and to develop the common European dimension – a level playing field. The first approach includes the continuation of the studies on a higher level. The project will identify how instruments for mitigation, compensation and investments can be used in the areas most affected by airports. It will also study the role of air traffic management and its impact on areas close to airports in practice. The project will also focus on the value of safeguarding optimal land-use, flexibility and investments in restricted areas. These approaches will provide input to the common European dimension of the project.

The second approach is to develop local and regional action plans in airport regions based on the findings in the project. The format will be an Interreg funded project with nine partners from all parts of Europe. The conclusion from this approach will also provide insights of the common European dimension.

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



## Surface Access and Climate Change

**The ARC Surface Access and Climate Change** project group deals with the question of improving surface access in airport regions and reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which are the effects. By creating a reliable and sustainable surface access system to the airport, it is possible to reduce the carbon footprint impact. The early findings from the project group was published in a special report 2008. The report concluded that how the transport to and from the airport is organised can be of great significance to the amount of emissions related to airport regions. The report has been widely recognised and quoted in 2009.

The project group has continued its work as set out in the long term project plan, with an emphasis on the carbon footprint. During 2010 the group is working on a more complete and detailed overview of the carbon footprint from various airport regions in Europe. We will analyse whether and why there are major differences between different airports. The report will also include an overview of good practices.

The project group members have been actively engaged by other organisations to present the findings and to provide information and comments on policy reviews etc. The project group also had a major role in developing the ARC position paper on intermodality in airport regions. The project is representing ARC in the Commission Observatory working in the airport capacity group on intermodality. The Observatory will launch an questionnaire to all airport regions in Europe on intermodality. This questionnaire was originally developed by the group. The group has also been engaged in finding additional resources and partners to develop the project further.

In 2009 the Flanders region became the lead partner of the project, while the project group is represented by West Sussex County Council in the Commission Observatory Working Group on Intermodality.

For more information regarding the project, please contact project manager Pieter Deschamps, tel: +32 22090 127, [pdeschamps@serv.be](mailto:pdeschamps@serv.be)

## How the ARC works

**The ARC members** consist of political organisations representing cities and regions from all parts of Europe. They all share a sound knowledge and experience of hosting international airports, from the mega hubs to the regional airports, and what this means for the wellbeing of their citizens.

ARC, with its well spread European network of specialists in various fields, is often asked to participate or co-organise meetings and events all over Europe to share our wide experiences from hosting an airport and what this means in terms of economic development opportunities, but also in terms of environmental and other effects.

The day-to-day work is carried out by the ARC Secretariat. The Secretariat informs and promotes the position of ARC in regard to the European institutions and other international organisations. This includes monitoring the development of relevant EU policies.

The ARC Brussels Office also links to other European and international networks and provides service and support to the ARC projects as well as to individual members.

Every second year ARC organises a major international conference where political representatives from cities and regions in Europe meet with representatives from the aviation industry, to discuss how to meet local and regional effects of changes in the air.

Twice a year ARC organises member meetings including project group meetings together with a member region and a one day seminar on a topic of international importance. The ARC projects organise regular meetings according to their working agenda.

**[www.airportregions.org](http://www.airportregions.org)** is the main information tool for information both to the ARC members and to the public. It contains information on current European issues and regional European news as well as updates from ARC projects and meetings. ARC regularly provides the members with a newsletter capturing the essential aviation-related news for cities and regions. ARC also publishes a guest column written by persons from both the private and the public sector with important insights in the aviation industry.

## Contact details

### President

Anne Devitt  
Fingal County Hall  
Main Street  
Swords  
Fingal, County Dublin  
Ireland  
Tel: +353 1 890 5036  
Fax: +353 1 890 6718  
anne.devitt@fingalcoco.ie

### Secretary General

Bengt Christensson  
Göteborg Region  
Box 5073  
SE 402 22 Göteborg, Sweden  
Tel: +46 (0) 31 335 5133  
Fax: +46 (0) 31 335 5117  
bengt.christensson@airportregions.org

### Brussels Office

Rue du Luxembourg 3  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 501 0835  
Fax: +32 2 501 0841  
info@airportregions.org

## Project managers

### Surface Access and Climate Change

Pieter Deschamps  
SERV, Flanders Region  
Tel: +32 220 90 127  
p.deschamps@serv.be

### AIREA

Björn Flintberg  
Göteborg Region, Sweden  
Tel: +46 70 838 5593  
bjorn.flintberg@grkom.se

### Quality of Life

Ine Kuipers  
Province of Noord Holland  
Tel: +31 023 514 38 68  
kuipersf@noord-holland.nl

### ARC Mediation Centre

Wolfgang Hesina  
Vienna Dialogforum, Austria  
Tel: +43 (1) 7007 25251  
w.hesina@dialogforum.at

### Noise and Environment

Joachim Wempe  
Planungsverband, Frankfurt/Rhein Main, Germany  
Tel: +49 69 2577 1435  
Fax: +49 69 2577 41435  
joachim.wempe@planungsverband.de

## Airports and members

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MEMBER REGION		PASSENGERS 2009, MILLIONS	ANNUAL GROWTH
Amsterdam Schiphol Airport	City of Amsterdam, Province of Noord-Holland, City of Haarlemmermeer		43.6	-8.1%
Athens International Airport	Prefecture of East Attica		16.2	-1.4%
Barcelona Airport	Barcelona Regional, Aeroports de Catalunya, El Prat de Llobregat	Girona	5.3	-4.1%
		Reus	N/A	
Berlin Airports	Berlin Brandenburger GL	Tegel	14.2	-2.1%
		Schönefeldt	6.8	+2.4%
Brussels International Airport	Flanders Region		17.0	-8.2%
Brussels South Charleroi Airport	SOWAER		3.9	+33.8%
		Liege	0.4	-11.0%
Dublin Airport	Fingal County Council		20.5	-12.6%
Frankfurt Airport	Planungsverband Frankfurt Rhein-Main		50.9	-4.7%
Gran Canaria Airports	Gobierno de Canarias	Gran Canaria	9.1	-10.4%
		Tenerife Norte	4.1	-4.3%
		Tenerife Sur	7.1	-13.9%
		Lanzarote	4.7	-13.6%
		Fuerteventura	3.9	-16.5%
		La Palma	1.0	-9.4%
Göteborg Landvetter Airport	Göteborg Region		3.7	-14.3%
		Göteborg City Airport	0.7	0.0%
Helsinki Vantaa International Airport	City of Vantaa, Uusimaa Helsinki Region		12.5	-6.9%
London Heathrow	London Borough of Hounslow		66.0	-1.5%
London Gatwick	West Sussex County Council		32.4	-5.3%
Madrid Barajas Airport	City of Madrid		48.2	-5.1%
Malta International Airport	Malta Environment and Planning Authority		2.9	-6.2%
Milan Malpensa Airport	Regione Lombardia		17.6	-8.7%
		Linate	8.3	-10.5%
		Bergamo	7.2	+10.4%
Munich Airport International	Land Bavaria		32.7	-5.4%
		Nuremberg	3.2	-6.5%
Oslo Gardermoen Airport	Romerike		18.1	-6.6%
Palma de Mallorca Airport	Consell Insular de Mallorca		21.2	-7.1%
		Menorca	2.4	-6.6%
Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport	Département de Val d'Oise, IAU-Ile de France		57.9	-4.9%
		Orly	25.1	-4.2%
Prague Airport Ruzyně	Prag Airport Region		11.6	-7.8%
Rotterdam The Hague Airport	City of Rotterdam		1.0	-10%
Stockholm Arlanda Airport	Stockholm Region		16.1	-11.4%
		Bromma	2.0	-6.2%
Transilvania Targu Mures Airport	Mures County Council		N/A	
Warsaw Frederic Chopin Airport	Mazovia Region		8.3	-12.0%
Vienna International Airport	City of Vienna		18.1	-8.3%
Zürich Airport	City of Zurich		21.9	-0.8%
<b>ASSOCIATED MEMBERS</b>	Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group – SASIG, UK			

Statistics: ACI Europe.