



# **An NGO Position on Aviation**

**Ian Dickie**

**for birds • for people • for ever**

# The RSPB

- Europe's Largest Wildlife Charity
- 1 million members
- Work to protect wild birds and the environment



# Climate Change

- Major threat to wildlife and the environment
- Climate change is happening now
- Already affecting wildlife eg. North Sea
- 15-37% of species 'committed to extinction' by 2050
- Impacts on humans



# Environmental Fiscal Reform

- Appropriate to address externalities with economic instruments...
- EFR should be part of policy mix
- Provided environmental targets are delivered
- Criticisms of EFR misplaced



# Aviation

- **Luxury Good**
- **Favourable tax treatment**
- **Stimulates economic activity – as other means of communication do**
- **Spending deficit**
- **Large and increasing externalities of:**
  - climate change,
  - noise,
  - land take,
  - local air pollution



# Aviation Policy

- **Government: predict and provide**
- **RSPB: Constrain demand/capacity**
  
- **RSPB Alternative:**
  - Internalise externality
  - Strategically plan capacity



# Internalising Aviation Externalities

- Two approaches possible:
  1. Fix long-term emissions target
  2. Include cost of externality
- 1 has better science
- Set long term targets
- Help market innovate



# NGOs Views

- **Aviation's environmental impacts need to be controlled**
- **Favourable tax treatment should end**
- **Support inclusion in EU ETS**
- **In favour of interim tax measure (emissions charge, increased APD)**



# Conclusion

- We don't want to end flying, we want it to expand more slowly...
- To be taxed/regulated in proportion to other resources and its externalities
- Doing so is a key test of 'Sustainable Development'

