

WELCOME KIT & PROGRAMME



AVI ACTION

**STAY GROUNDED
ACTION CONFERENCE**

5-9 October 2022 in Lille

Content



Welcome!



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We are excited to welcome you to Lille – and also online – to join us for four days of connecting, sharing experiences and discussing strategies around actions for the reduction of aviation.

Over the last few months, we have put together a programme that touches on several different aspects of what it means to take action to counter aviation. When putting together this programme, we looked at what is being done throughout the movement and have attempted to capture and share elements of the movement that will inspire us to organise and mobilise for a climate-just mobility system.

On **Wednesday, 5 October**, we'll kick off the conference with a panel focusing on the importance of direct action and global solidarity for countering aviation. To exemplify the need for direct action, we will learn about the local struggle against the Lille-Lesquin airport expansion and connect this to other anti-airport struggles in France and around the world.

On **Thursday, 6 October**, we'll delve into the importance of global solidarity for working together as a strong movement that is able to take on harmful neocolonial infrastructure projects worldwide. We will also have several workshops throughout the day focusing on various aspects of actions to counter aviation. In these workshops we will gather diverse experiences and visions that can be used for furthering our understanding of the role of actions in our collective struggle.

On **Friday, 7 October**, we want to reflect on past lessons and where we need to go, moving forward as a movement. We want to build on the knowledge and visions gathered in the previous days to discuss what should be priorities for the movement in the next year, and imagine what a global call to action for countering aviation in 2023 could look like.

On **Saturday, 8 October**, since the struggle is collective, we hope after several days together, we have been able to strengthen bonds, solidify ties within the movement and have had time throughout the conference to really get to know each other and enjoy each other's company. On this day we'll have some additional workshops in the morning and in an ultimate act of solidarity, we'll take to the streets in the afternoon for a symbolic action against the Lille-Lesquin airport expansion.

On **Sunday, 9 October**, we'll take advantage of having so many European Stay Grounded members gathered in Lille, and have a European Network Meeting to discuss the outcomes of the conference.

→ **Stay Grounded** is a global network of more than 180 member organisations, among them local airport opposition and climate justice groups, NGOs, trade unions, initiatives fostering alternatives to aviation like night trains, and organisations supporting communities which struggle against offset projects or biofuel plantations. Also individual activists, academics, trade unionists and interested people can contribute to the network.

We work to exchange experiences, support each other, and campaign together for a reduction of aviation and its negative impacts. We also engage in fighting problematic climate strategies like offsetting emissions and biofuels. Our vision is a form of mobility that rests inside the planetary boundaries and allows a livable future for us and our children.

Non à l'agrandissement de l'Aéroport de Lille (NADA) was formed in March 2021 to fight against the expansion project of the Lille airport. The first task was to inform the people of the existence of this project, largely kept under the wraps by the authorities. We did this through public meetings,

leaflets, door-to-door campaigns, demonstrations - a whole arsenal was used to inform the inhabitants of the Lille Metropolitan Area (MEL) and to reveal the extent of the protest to the project's backers. A small working group including a lawyer is now preparing legal action while others are planning information and mobilization campaigns to demand the withdrawal of the extension project as well as any modifications aiming to increase the air traffic at Lille-Lesquin. Today, 13 500 people have signed our petition and the association has 158 members. In the last few months, NADA has teamed up with Stay Grounded to build this conference and welcome everyone to Lille.

In this **Welcome Kit** you will find all the relevant information on the sessions, venues, languages and online participation.



Venue



The conference will take place close to the train station in the lovely neighbourhood of Fives.

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The main events will be held at:

Maison Régionale de l'environnement et des solidarités, MRES

5 rue Jules de Vicq, 59800 Lille

Gallery Lasécu

26 Rue Bourjembois, 59800 Lille

On arriving in Lille, you should first register at the welcome & information desk at the MRES to get your printed programme, information about how to navigate the conference and where to head next.

The MRES and all the other conference venues (except for La Voisin-erie) are located two stops away from the Lille Flandres train station (if you arrive at the Lille Europe train station, it's a 7-minute walk to Lille Flandres).

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Other locations that will also harbour some sessions are:

Supermarché coopératif SuperQuinquin

53-55 Rue Pierre Legrand, 59800 Lille

La Voisinerie de Wazemmes

48 Rue Barthélémy Delespaul, 59000 Lille

Food

We have combined different solutions to be able to provide vegan meals to all participants for both lunch and dinner throughout the conference (starting Wednesday evening).

All meals will be served at Lasécu (provided by Tipimi) except for dinner on Wednesday and Saturday, and brunch on Sunday. On Wednesday, dinner will take place at the MRES, prepared by Ô Saveurs Mobiles; on Saturday, La Voisin-erie will host us for dinner; and on Sunday, brunch will be provided at L'Objetothèque Tipimi (43 Rue Pierre Legrand, 59800 Lille).

Online Participation



Since this is a no-fly conference, it's very important for us to provide a good online participation option, even though the in-person experience will be highlighted. All the panel discussions and keynote speeches, as well as some of the workshops and strategic discussions, will be offered in a hybrid format to allow for participation by Stay Grounded members and allies from all over the globe.

The online sessions will be hosted on Zoom (www.zoom.us) and in between sessions, online participants will also be able to connect via Gather Town (www.gather.town). If you registered as an online participant you will receive the links to access the sessions shortly before the conference. If any issue related to online participation comes up, please write to: calum@stay-grounded.org

Each Zoom session will have a dedicated tech support host to ensure everything goes smoothly. However, to help integrate the on-line participants, we ask the organisers and in-person participants to always keep the following principles in mind:

Online first:

remote participants should have priority when speaking

Only one person at a time:

keep your microphone muted when you're not speaking and always ask to speak, by sending a * in the chat

Always speak into the microphone.

Speak clearly and not too fast.

Language and Interpretation



To make it possible to overcome certain language barriers, we have made a substantial effort to provide interpretation. For this, we will be supported by the collective COATI and by a team of interpreters, who will provide simultaneous interpretation between English and French for most of the sessions, and also in Spanish for some of them. We are still trying to fill all the interpretation needs, and will do our best to offer the languages indicated for each session. Any possible changes will be made known during the plenary sessions.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough capacity to provide interpretation into other languages, but we encourage you to support each other in terms of language: don't hesitate to ask if you miss something.

For the events with simultaneous interpretation, **COATI will provide small radios for you to receive the interpretation.** Just pick one up before the session at the entrance, if you need interpretation.

To make it easier for the interpreters, we kindly ask you to **always speak into the microphone and speak clearly, loud and not too fast.**

Why This Action Conference?

After the setback of the Covid-19 pandemic, the aviation industry is planning to return to pre-covid flight loads and goals for growth despite being one of the fastest growing and most climate-destructive sectors.

Faced with the decades-old inaction of world leaders and the constant use of greenwashing and neo-colonialist tactics by the aviation industry and politicians, we felt the need to join together as a united force ready for action, with renewed power and enthusiasm.

During our last Global Network Meeting, we decided it would be important to organise an action conference, one that could strengthen the connections between grassroots groups to counter aviation, and put action in the centre stage of our movement's strategies for change.

To this end, NADA (Non à l'Agrandissement de l'Aéroport), an organisation resisting airport expansion in Lille, kindly agreed to host the conference and help us with preparations. We hope this conference will provide a space to reunite with activists from all over Europe and beyond and to welcome new faces to the movement.

Programme

Wed, 5 October

06:00 – 07:00 pm: **Welcome and registration**

Location **MRES**

07:00 – 09:00 pm: **Opening Session**

***Direct action to counter aviation:
Local struggles, global solidarity***

Location **MRES (Reuze Papa room)**

Languages **English, French and Spanish**

Facilitation **Mira Kapfinger**

With Audrey Boehly (co-founder of the collective Non au T4 for air traffic reduction at Roissy), Capucine Saulpic (NADA spokesperson), Eraldo Souza dos Santos (writer), Gabriela Vega Tellez (member of the Coordinadora de Pueblos y Organizaciones del Oriente del Estado de México en Defensa de la Tierra, el Agua y su Cultura)

On Wednesday evening, we will present the local struggle against the Lille-Lesquin airport expansion and connect it with a global solidarity perspective by highlighting the relationship this struggle has with other anti-airport struggles around the world. We will welcome representatives of anti

*This session
will have online
participation*

airport struggles from France and other parts of the globe along with Eraldo Sousa dos Santos, a writer and lecturer in global history. dos Santos has written about resistance movements, the anti-airport movement and civil disobedience. Together, we will talk about the importance of taking action to stop airport expansion and to fight for climate justice.

The evening will finish with a summary of how to navigate the programme over the next few days.

Eraldo Souza dos Santos is a writer currently based in Paris. In his current book project, he aims to offer the first global history of civil disobedience. His writing on the politics of movements against airport construction and expansion has appeared in the Washington Post and World Politics Review.

Gabriela Vega Tellez is a native of Texcoco in the Valley of Mexico and co-founder with Heriberto Salas Amac (1958–2020) of the Original Inhabitants and NGOs eastern State of Mexico Coordination in defence of land, water and culture (CPOOEM), an organisational effort member of the National Indigenous Congress (CNI) that fights for life and for the autonomy of the peoples.

Capucine Saulpic is a PhD student in linguistics and her work is about language acquisition during childhood. She is also a climate activist and tries to combine these two concerns. Given the climate emergency and the inaction of politicians, she decided to become actively involved in the fight for climate justice and more specifically against the extension of the Lille airport.

Audrey Boehly lives with her family near Paris, close to Roissy airport. In 2019, she co-founded the citizen association “Non au T4” against the Terminal 4 project to extend the airport and allow a 50% increase in passengers, with catastrophic impacts on climate and health. She helped create the coalition of associations that obtained the cancellation of the project in 2021 and now pushes for flight limitations at Roissy and other airports in France.

09:00 – 10:00 pm: Dinner

Location **MRES (Reuze Papa room)**

Thu, 6 October

08:30 – 09:00 am: Welcome and registration

Location **MRES**

09:00 – 10:00 am: Keynote

Solidarity Beyond Borders: Targeting European institutions involved in destructive airport projects worldwide

Location **MRES (Reuze Papa room)**

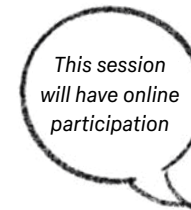
Languages **English, French and Spanish**

Facilitation **Daniela Subtil Fialho**

With representatives of Filipino organisations, including Advocates of Science and Technology for the People (AGHAM) and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment

The construction for a massive airport and airport city complex, an ‘aerotropolis’, in the Bulacan province, Manila Bay in the Philippines is underway. The aerotropolis, which is the most expensive infrastructure project to date in the Philippines, is projected to triple the capacity of the existing main Manila airport. Present and future social and environmental impacts on fishing communities and coastal ecosystems have triggered a powerful movement of community groups and organisations to resist this disastrous project at local and international level. In this session, we will hear from representatives of fisherfolk groups, AGHAM and Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment about their stories of resistance and experiences of struggle that can be replicated elsewhere.

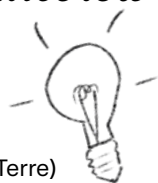
10:00 – 10:30 am: Break



10:30 – 12:30 pm: **Workshop Slot 1**

Brainstorming for innovative low cost/high impact actions

Location **MRES** (Yser room)
Languages **English and French**
Organiser **Eric Lombard** (Rester sur Terre)



Brainstorming to come up with new ideas of low cost and high impact actions accessible to everyone at any time. Individually or in small groups. The starting point is that traditional actions require a lot of organisation and investment on the part of the organisers. But everyone who has the time and the motivation should be able to take action when and where they want, and still manage to have a strong impact.

Climate justice and aviation

Location **Lasécu**
Languages **English and French**
Organiser **Anne Kretzschmar** (Stay Grounded)

In this workshop we will look into why reducing aviation is such an important part of our pathway to climate justice. Based on our report, “Common Destination”, along with the work Stay Grounded has been doing for the past years, we will learn and discuss the basic facts around the climate impact and injustice of aviation. We will touch on why the solutions put forward by the aviation industry are greenwashing and how we can counter their arguments and narratives effectively.

Mapping South and North struggles against aviation: companies, movements, campaigns

Location **MRES** (Lys room)
Languages **English and French**

Organisers **Sara Mingorría** (Universitat de Girona and Zeroport) and **Daniela Subtil Fialho** (Stay Grounded)

The workshop aims to discuss and weave strategies of resistance based on the analysis of 100 cases of airport conflicts around the world. Specifically, we will learn from success stories of the cases mapped. Moreover, we will discuss the required information and the available data to design a collective campaign (eg. European companies and governments investing abroad or in other countries in Europe).

In this workshop we will open a space of discussion and reflection to connect resistance on the Global South and North. We will present some analyses based on the mapping team work about resistance against airport infrastructure expansion around the world. For example, we will see:

- ▼ The different European company names and governments investing in airport expansions
- ▼ The amount of investments
- ▼ The main success strategies of resistance



Trends and issues around Air Cargo, with a focus on e-commerce

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Organisers **Cédric Leterme** (Stop Alibaba & Co/ GRESEA) and Bruno Wollenschneider (Association de Défense des Riverains de l'Aéroport de Bâle-Mulhouse)

The goal of this workshop is first to expose some key facts about the Air Cargo industry and its recent trends, especially with the rise of e-commerce. And secondly, to discuss the specific problems the sector poses to the social and environmental justice movements, with an aim to identify possible courses of action and forms of solidarity with other struggles (e.g. e-commerce workers).

12:30 – 02:30 pm: **Lunch**

Location **Lasécu**

02:30 – 04:30 pm: **Workshop Slot 2**

Energy sufficiency: an opportunity to reduce air traffic!

Location **SuperQuinquin**
Languages **English**
Organisers **Audrey Boehly, Eric Lombard**



With the war in Ukraine and the acceleration of climate change, energy sufficiency has finally hit the media and the political agenda in Europe. Yet, aviation is not part of the debate. Let's change this! How can we seize this opportunity and include air traffic reduction in the debate? Which aviation sufficiency measures should we demand as a network? How should we communicate to reach our objective (publish a call, launch a campaign)?

Learning to fight together

Location **Lasécu**
Languages **English and French**
Organisers **Dominique Just and Jonas Asal**
(Robin Wood)

In social movements it's vital that we work together. To step up our fight we need to motivate and inspire each other. But that's not always easy given different political views, different organising experiences or different "activist cultures".

We want to create an open exchange: What challenges do we have in our movement-internal collaboration and how can we overcome them? How can we become more inclusive – which barriers can we bring down?

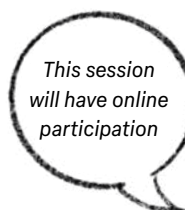
Speechless speeches: how to interrupt people in power at high-level events?

Location **MRES** (Yser room)
Languages **English and French**
Organisers **Francisco Pedro** (ATERRA),
Magdalena Heuwieser (Stay Grounded),
Peter Paul Vossepoel
(formerly Zomer Zonder Vliegen)

Interrupting high level speeches can be a fun, empowering and effective way to break through the media monotony, unmask environment criminals and shed attention to inspiring ecological struggles.

We'll share first hand about our past aviation-related actions in Portugal, Belgium and Austria, how they were planned and how they went, what we've laughed about and learned. And maybe we can find new opportunities?

Feel free to interrupt us!



Navigating a Safe Landing: collaborating with aviation workers to transform air travel and ensure a just transition

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Organiser **Finlay Asher** (Safe Landing,
XR Trade Unionists and Unite the Union)

The workshop will present and facilitate break-out groups for participants (in person and online) to discuss the following questions:

- ▼ Is climate action aligned with, or in opposition to, protecting jobs?
- ▼ Should climate campaigners and trade unionists

collaborate?

- ▼ What can the climate movement learn from the TUs about organising & mobilising people to achieve system change? What can TUs learn from the climate movement about diversity and creativity of tactics?
- ▼ Should climate campaigners support striking workers on picket lines?
- ▼ What messaging and imagery should be used to appeal to workers?

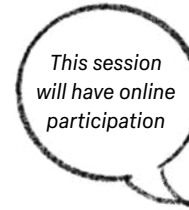
How can we encourage more deliberative democracy (e.g. “Aviation Workers’ Assemblies”) within TUs to design alternative visions of the future for air travel and organise towards a just transition?

Non-violent action – an effective tool for social change?

Location **MRES** (Lys room)
Languages **English and French**
Organiser **Sara Fromm**
 (Werkstatt für Gewaltfreie Aktion)

Non-violent action – Yes, of course! But what does “nonviolent action” entail and how does it work? In this workshop, we want to take a closer look at Non-violent Action as a form of making socio-political conflicts visible and thus bring about social change. In addition to the basics, we will deal with different personal motivations and different levels of escalation. We want to offer a space for reflection and combine theoretical input with the concrete context of the AviAction Conference.

04:30 – 05:00 pm: **Break**



05:00 – 07:00 pm: **Panel**

The role of direct action for reducing aviation and building a just mobility-system

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Facilitation **Inês Teles**

With Anne Kretzschmar, Graeme Hayes (reader in Political Sociology, Aston University), Simon Teune (sociologist at Berlin’s Free University and co-founder of the Institute for the Study of Protests and Social Movements)

Why did we choose to focus this conference on “actions”? In this panel, we delve into the role of direct actions in a theory of change that can be successful for the movement to reduce aviation. We want to discuss how direct actions interact with other tools for social change, like raising awareness, legal challenges or advocacy; how the kind of direct actions we can organise to counter aviation can be limited by local contexts and targets (i.e. direct actions at airports); and what exactly “non-violent” direct action entails.

Simon Teune is a sociologist at Berlin’s Free University. He is one of the co-founders of the Institute for the Study of Protests and Social Movements (<http://protestinstitut.eu>). As a member of the board of trustees of the Bewegungsstiftung, Simon was part of the support group fostering the foundation’s institutional funding for Stay Grounded.

Graeme Hayes is a reader in Political Sociology at Aston University, UK. He specializes in social movements and the sociology of climate change. He’s the author of *La Désobéissance civile* (Presses de la FNSP, with Sylvie Ollitrault).

Anne Kretzschmar, socioeconomist and climate justice activist, is working as campaigner with the Stay Grounded Network since 2019. She has been involved in the strategic discussions on the role of direct actions in the German anti-coal movement for many years.

08:00 – 09:00 pm: **Film**

Why T-Rex doesn't Fly

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English** (with French subtitles)

With director Lorenzo Lonardi

Having travelled to many places around the world, Lorenz, who is a nature lover and enthusiastic environmentalist became more and more aware that his way of moving around the world comes with a big cost for the environment.

Indeed, flying is the most polluting thing that an individual can do and Lorenzo has flown a lot! Shocked by this he sets out on a journey of discovery into the aviation sector, in the company of his boisterous, nagging and above all charismatic Sense of Guilt. His journey - by bus, train and foot - will take him to Cop 26 in Glasgow to understand the solutions towards this problem, learning about just how polluting flying is, the fake technological solutions proposed by the aviation industry, and the inequality that flying entails.

Friday, 7 October

08:30 – 09:00 am: **Welcome and registration**

Location **MRES**

09:00 – 10:00 am: **Keynote**

*Strategies for a grounded future:
lessons learned from victories and
failures*

This session
will have online
participation

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Facilitation **Magdalena Heuwieser** (Stay Grounded)
With **Sara Mingorría** (Universitat de Girona
and Zeroport), **Celeste Hicks** (Journalist)

In this session, we want to look back on the recent past of the movement to counter aviation to understand where we stand in the global struggle for the reduction of aviation and how we can move forward. For that, we will be joined by Sara Mingorría, who will bring us her insights from her experience at Zeroport (network struggling against the ports and airports expansions in Catalunya) and Celeste Hicks, who will share with us lessons learned from the struggle against the expansion of Heathrow Airport, after recently publishing the book *Expansion Rebellion* that delves deep within this story. This session aims to serve as a starting point and inspiration for the strategic discussions that will take place afterward and that want to look at what should be priorities for the movement in the next year.

Celeste Hicks is a writer and former BBC journalist. She has worked for the UK foreign office and Friends of the Earth, and is now Comms Manager at the Clean Cities Campaign. *Expansion Rebellion* is her third book, the previous two books were about Chad and were published by Zed Books.

Sara Mingorría is a scholar-activist on political ecology. She has been part of the Mapping Airport Conflicts team in Stay Grounded since 2018 and is a post-doc researcher at Universitat de Girona in Spain. She is a member of Zeroport (a network fighting port and airport expansions in Catalunya) created in 2019 after the Stay Grounded conference in Barcelona. Injustices mobilise and ignite her. She believes in groups, collectives and communities that work to create alternatives. Dancing makes her feel free and she makes a great effort to put life at the centre of everything she does.

10:00 – 10:30 am: **Break**

10:30 – 12:30 pm: Strategy working groups

What would a global call to action in 2023 look like and what should our strategic priorities be

*This session
will have online
participation*

Alliances

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Facilitators **Mira Kapfinger**

Communication

Location **MRES** (Lys room)
Languages **English and French**
Facilitator **Manuel Grebenjak** (Stay Grounded)

*This session
will have online
participation*

Global Solidarity

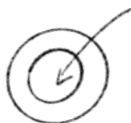
Location **SuperQuinquin**
Languages **English and Spanish**
Facilitator **Daniela Subtil Fialho**

Tactics

Location **MRES** (Yser room)
Languages **English and French**
Facilitators **Magdalena Heuwieser, Sara Fromm**

Targets

Location **MRES** (Escout room)
Languages **English and French**
Facilitators **Calum Harvey-Scholes** (Reclaim the Power)
Anne Kretzschmar



12:30 – 02:30 pm: Lunch

Location **Lasécu**

02:30 – 04:30 pm: Open Slot

Counselling sessions

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)

Bring strategic questions or problems your group or initiative is facing (around actions/campaigns) and get spontaneous advice through collective swarm-intelligence.

Continuation of the strategic discussions

04:30 – 05:00 pm: Break

05:00 – 07:00 pm: Panel

Towards strategic action in 2023 and beyond: weaving the results of discussions together

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Facilitation **Anne Kretzschmar**

With the facilitators of the strategy working groups

In this panel we will consider the results from the strategic working group discussions on Alliances, Global Solidarity, Communication, Tactics and Targets.. We want to present and debate about some conclusions towards defining objectives and determining priorities for the movement for the reduction of aviation. We will also put forward proposals for what a global call to actions in 2023 could look like and how it would fit into a bigger strategy.

08:00 – 09:00 pm: Dinner

*This session
will have online
participation*

Saturday, 8 October

08:30 – 09:00 am: **Welcome and registration**

Location **MRES**

09:00 – 11:00 am: **Workshop Slot 3**

Adbusting: Words as a political measure against air traffic

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Languages **English, French and Spanish**
Organiser **Berlin Busters Social Club**

Adbusting is a form of street art. It involves altering advertising posters with paint, paper and paste in such a way that the message is distorted beyond recognition. In the workshop we will talk about what advertising actually is and how advertising represents social ideas. Together we want to discuss whether this form of action is suitable for an emancipatory practice against the expansion of air traffic, or whether it merely reproduces the visual habits of the advertising industry.

Changing mindsets on (air) travel

Location **SuperQuinquin**
Languages **English**
Organiser **Alexis Chailloux** (Greenpeace France)

We believe that switching mindsets is a very important leg of our work to lower air traffic. Especially regarding the audience that often takes the plane (young urban elites, sensitive to climate change, privileged). That said, we are conscious that our 'mindset work' would be way more efficient with strong political measures (end of aviation subsidies, taxation of each flight departure, development of night trains and long-distance trains at a fair price).

In this workshop we will:

- ▼ Present Greenpeace France's work on switching mindsets so far (context, audience, goal, tactics)
- ▼ Brainstorm on what actions we could take to contribute to that broad cultural shift

This session
will have online
participation

Legal steps against aviation greenwashing

Location **MRES** (Yser room)
Languages **English and French**
Organiser **Hiske Arts** (Fossilvrij NL)

In this workshop we will look at what legal steps we can take against the deception of the aviation industry, taking the Bristol airport expansion and the KLM misleading ads lawsuit as case studies.

Organising without burning out

Location **Lasécu**
Languages **English and French**
Organiser **Diffraction**

A workshop to learn how to shape activist spaces so I can organise while taking care of myself and others.

As Audre Lorde well put it : "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." And we still have some work to do about that in these times. In this 2-hour workshop, we will explore our narratives and beliefs around what an activist is or "should be". We will also question « guilt », this strange feeling that sometimes leads us to exceed our limits or to close ourselves. All in a context of organising actions and, more broadly, participating in social and environmental struggles.

Rapid response actions

Location **MRES** (Lys room)
Languages **English** and **French**
Organiser **António Assunção** (Climáximo)

Governments and Companies want to expand aviation as fast as they can. Most of the time we know that new projects are being built but we don't know when the construction begins. That's why we need rapid response teams and actions, to stop the harm and give us time to mobilise in mass.

We will look at:

- ▼ How to build a team
- ▼ Narrative and communication
- ▼ Action planning
- ▼ Next steps after the response is active

02:00 – 05:00 pm

Action against the expansion of the Lille-Lesquin Airport

More information about the action will be provided during the conference.

05:00 – 07:00 pm

Gathering, highlights from the action and what comes next

Location **La Voisinierie**
Languages **English** and **French**,
with self organised whisper translation

After the action, we want to join together to exchange feelings and experiences, think collectively about how it went and also announce some exciting upcoming actions to counter aviation.

7:00 pm

Diner and goodbye party

Location **La Voisinierie**

Sunday, **9** October

10:00 – 12:00 am: **Brunch**

Location **L'Objetothèque Tipimi**

12:00 – 04:00 pm: **Internal Meeting**

European Network Meeting

Location **MRES** (Yser and Escaut rooms)

Strategy Working Groups

On Friday morning, after looking at our past achievements and failures and understanding where we stand in the global struggle for the reduction of aviation, we want to think about what should be our priorities for building effective action in the coming year.

As a movement, we have collectively raised the profile of aviation's climate consequences in the past years. As a result, air traffic is now perceived by many people as a driver of the climate crisis. Increasing awareness has already influenced air passenger numbers in some countries. Nevertheless, air travel remains virtually unregulated, flights are approaching pre-Covid levels and the aviation industry is responding with ever stronger and more mind-bending greenwash. This is only going to increase and, coupled with sophisticated marketing, it is frustratingly effective at convincing people that flying is acceptable and that the effects can be offset. At the same time, air travel is still extremely unequal: it remains a privilege of a tiny, wealthy global minority – an issue that is still far from the public awareness.

So what does this mean for our work and our strategies as a movement in the coming year(s)? We will discuss five areas that are essential to building strong action within the scope of global justice: Alliances, Communication, Global Solidarity, Tactics and Targets.

We will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of several options within these topics, bearing in mind some key questions:

- ▼ What is the analysis of the current situation we are in as a movement?
- ▼ What could be a focus for next year and why, and what demands should we rally around for a global week/day of action?
- ▼ What should be the goals for the years to come, and what long-term strategy is needed?
- ▼ What part of aviation injustice (topic or demand) can be addressed better through specific types of action?
- ▼ How can we develop the flexibility needed to adapt to the rapid changes in a world with multiple on-going crises?

To promote better discussion, a short introductory text was elaborated by the facilitator of each session, which is included in this Welcome Kit.

The conclusions harvested from these discussions will be shared in the evening plenary session, and should provide proposals for what a moment of global action in 2023 could look like and how it would fit into a broader strategy. These proposals will then be taken back to a Global Stay Grounded Network Meeting later this year, for further deliberation and decision-making.



Alliances

Location **MRES** (Reuze Papa room)
Language **English, French and Spanish**
Facilitation **Mira Kapfinger**

*„... a given social movement isn't a list of organizations, or campaigns, or even individuals; it's the set of relationships between organizations, campaigns, individuals etc.” **Farhad Imbrahimi****

Acting together is our strength! The past five years of Stay Grounded have been all about building a well-connected movement. From the beginning, ties were created around the climate injustice related to aviation as well as around a critique of false solutions and the financialisation of nature.

However, alliances with groups focusing on other issues accompanied the movement from the start.

The climate impact of aviation is becoming a more and more recognized issue and an increasing number of large environmental NGOs and funders are taking up the topic; this is a huge success for the movement. Still, after five years of building a growing movement and shifting public discourse, aviation remains a side topic, sometimes even within the climate justice movement itself.

Our strongest focus has been connecting groups who were already resisting aviation growth from different angles or who were promoting alternatives to air traffic. One of our founding ideas was to foster solidarity among local anti-airport struggle groups to avoid “not in my backyard” (NIMBY) approaches – and to counter the diversion tactics of governments who are trying to shift the debate to where to expand airports or to where flight paths lie, instead of questioning expansion in general. Therefore, we have built a network to resist together and put forward a shared demand for degrowth in aviation. Still, many local groups are caught up in their important local struggles, which leaves them with limited capacity for engagement in a global network; campaigns and approaches often remain local. The question remains as to how initiatives that focus on very local work can benefit from the global network and vice-versa, and how relationships can be maintained over long spans of inactivity.

From its early days, Stay Grounded was also shaped by the few progressive union members and workers critical of the industry. As the COVID pandemic hit, these alliances for a Just Transition were strengthened by collaborating on the necessary “safe landing” for workers and communities dependent on aviation. Amongst others, we supported and worked closely with Safe Landing, representing ‘climate concerned aviation professionals’, and a similar French initiative: Superaero Decarbo. However, these initiatives have not yet reached the mainstream and whilst we were able to influence the discussion on a Just Transition, few collaboration opportunities have arisen as a result, apart from our usual contacts. Even the most progressive unions

still support aviation growth in statements shaped in collaboration with the industry. Whilst it is easy to agree on social demands, it is obvious that the unions often follow the industry’s greenwashing narratives concerning climate change, and therefore neglect the necessity for a redesign of the sector. Some voices within the climate justice movement now go so far as to state that the fight must be won without the support of the workers in the fossil industries due to opposing interests.

After reflecting on these achievements and short-falls in building alliances, we will discuss how to continue creating alliances with a view to possible concerted action in 2023. In this process, we should remain mindful that it is not about setting different alliances against each other but about questioning which alliances we can realistically cultivate and which ones fit best with our strategies and tactics. We cannot simply build meaningful relationships endlessly. We aim to discuss the following questions:

- ▼ If we want to push the issues of the injustice of flying and greenwashing in the aviation sector more strongly, what are the alliances we need for this?
- ▼ Which alliances should we focus on, being mindful of our limited resources? Some examples we might consider are:
 - ▶ more organizing with workers and Just Transition networking;
 - ▶ deepening the collaboration with tourism-dependent communities and struggles against mass tourism;
 - ▶ developing closer ties with social justice advocates;
 - ▶ pushing the larger environmental NGOs to become involved;
 - ▶ collaborating more with civil society organizations planning to change their travel policies or with our current allies working on the cost of living ...

Whichever ideas we come up with, it’s important to reflect

on our ideas with the help of some questions:

- ▼ What's in it for us? – How can we push our demands by forming an alliance?
- ▼ What's in it for them? We all have common struggles that we can work on together – so which groups and networks need our support?
- ▼ Do we have enough capacity and would our cooperation be effective? We simply cannot build endless meaningful relationships so we need to realistically ask ourselves: which alliance can we realistically cultivate and which ones best fit our capacity, skills, strategies and tactics?

**from "Emergent Strategy" by Adrienne Maree Brown*



Communication

Location **MRES** (Lys room)
Language **English, French**
Facilitation **Manuel Grebenjak** (Stay Grounded)

Communication is key: The impact of an action is determined also by how we communicate about it. Our demands receive more support if we explain them in an understandable and appealing way. And even the starkest facts about injustice and inequality will only motivate people to take action if they are communicated in a tangible way.

But we have a difficult task ahead of us: the aviation industry has spent billions over decades to paint itself in a positive light. Even though the climate impact of flying is widely known, the image of aviation is far from the greedy, environmentally reckless and exploitive industry it is in reality. If the commonly held mental image of flying is currently still an alluring one, our task is to shift that frame of thinking to one that realistically incorporates the harm aviation is causing to people, communities and the planet. With the Common Destination Guide, Stay Grounded has developed a toolkit to help our movement cast aviation in a way that illuminates its realities.

The new narratives in the guide can help us adapt our communication to different types of actions and events. Looking at the coming year(s), we need to discuss which narratives and messages to focus on.

The five narratives suggested in Common Destination are:

- ▼ **Plane Greedy** – Highlighting the aviation industry's wrongdoings
- ▼ **Common Destination** – About air traffic's climate injustice and how to achieve justice
- ▼ **Green Means Grounded** – How to counter greenwashing and transform our mobility
- ▼ **Safe Landing** – Why change will come either by design or disaster & how to protect workers
- ▼ **Enjoy the Journey** – Showing a positive way forward with less flying and different forms of travel.

Research shows that the acceptance of climate measures is greatest when they are socially just and affect the rich to an extent proportionate to their responsibility. In addition, social movements that fight against social injustices often have more (local & long-term) mobilising power than the climate movement has at the moment. The central demands and goals of our movement should therefore focus even more on social justice – not only at a global scale, but also nationally and regionally. Particularly excessive examples such as frequent private jet flights by rich individuals make these injustices especially visible and should be addressed whenever possible – without forgetting the systemic level.

When we look at the next few months and the coming year, the current energy crisis can be a good starting point to highlight the fact that flying is an activity that is socially very unevenly distributed and that wastes a lot of energy. At the same time, we can expect the industry's greenwashing lies to only get bolder. Especially in times of looming economic crises, arguments for growth and jobs will come before anything else from many sides.

Nevertheless, a safe landing and laying new tracks for a just planet remain our only option if we want a liveable future.

In this session we will discuss ...

- ▼ the main communication challenges in the next months and years and how can we best deal with them ...
- ▼ how to communicate about daring action in a way that makes it legitimate for broad audiences...
- ▼ how to make radical demands tangible and desirable for the many ...
- ▼ and how to adapt common narratives to the specificities of local struggles.



Global Solidarity

Location **SuperQuinquin room**
Language **English and Spanish**
Facilitation **Daniela Subtil Fialho**

Only a truly global struggle can deliver climate justice – an understanding that the Stay Grounded (SG) network holds dear in its struggle for an environmentally-sound and socially-just reduction of aviation worldwide. Since its foundation, SG has aimed to build a global network to address the root causes of the climate, ecological and global-justice crises, focusing on the particularly grave example of climate injustice created by aviation.

In the nearly six years of SG, we have organized coordinated global action, welcomed a growing number of members from different regions of the world less-represented within the network, and sought to establish more collaboration and alliances among groups from distinct regions. Yet, often our communication has been called out as Eurocentric and unable to resonate with the struggles for life of the people on the front lines, and we have been told that our practices do not fully match our discourse.

Looking at past achievements and failures resulting from the attempt to 'globalise' our network, the AviAction Conference will be a great opportunity to revisit the meaning of global solidarity, and to debate what and how to change to seriously mirror global solidarity in our action plans. With the

idea of globally coordinated actions in 2023 in mind, we will discuss:

- a. what we can do to show solidarity with events and fights happening everywhere in the world;
- b. how we can use, together with our allies in the South, the privileges enjoyed by activist groups and organisations from the North to advance a global justice agenda and to amplify the voices of those most negatively impacted by the aviation industry;
- c. which companies and governments from the Global North are most responsible for damaging (aviation-related) projects throughout the world and how we can target them;
- d. how we can build momentum and collective power as a network with coordinated action while strengthening and giving visibility to individual organizations' initiatives.

We look forward to having a lively discussion with the multiple perspectives and approaches of the global struggle against aviation for ecological and climate justice.



Tactics

Location **MRES (Yser room)**
Language **English and French**
Facilitation **Magdalena Heuwieser, Sara Fromm**

There is a wide range of tactics that have been applied to counter airport projects and corporate aviation power. Which ones to use depends on the overall strategy, the type of stakeholder we are (NGO, social movement, citizen's initiative, trade union ...), the political context (local or regional; if you're at the beginning of a struggle or close to a win ...), the targets we choose (decision makers, industry, individuals ...), our capacity (time, money ...) - and a lot more.

Often, a lack of creativity and analysis leads to the application of the same tactics over and over again – even though they might not be very ...tactical. For example, a small activ-

ist group might not effectively hinder an airport expansion project by sending a petition for signatures to politicians, or by holding a banner in front of the airport and talking to passengers.

Which tactics have proven effective in the resistance to air traffic? Which ones are lacking? Currently, resistance is not very visible and political pressure to really change the sector is weak. Should we be escalating our tactics?

Escalation can be horizontal, meaning that our groups and individuals can become more and more active. This can be done through strategic organizing or movement building. Escalation can also be vertical: more and more climate activists are discussing options like civil disobedience or “peaceful sabotage”. When can such actions, like blocking flights or interfering with refuelling planes, be useful to achieve our goals, and when would they backfire?

In this session, we will discuss the above-mentioned questions and be creative about tactics we should push more in the coming year.

Targets

Location	MRES (Escaut room)
Language	English, French
Facilitation	Calum Harvey-Scholes (Reclaim the Power), Anne Kretzschmar

Action by climate and aviation-critical activists has tended to target airports and stakeholder conferences on aviation. The European movement is known for blocking runways, climbing onto planes, occupying terminals and storming stages to take the mic, while globally, tireless marches and occupying construction sites are most common. Group acts on runways or in airport terminals, as well as affinity groups or individuals targeting aircraft have been effective in both disrupting operations and attracting media coverage for our message. Runway blockades with clear messaging about carbon emissions and staging invasions with effective communication highlighting the damage air traffic causes

have raised awareness of the climate impact of flying in recent years.

While action targeting airport and stakeholder conferences has been effective in bringing attention to aviation’s climate impact, it has so far failed to broadly spread awareness of the injustice of flying and to bring the industry’s greed into public discussion. Even though Stay Grounded and many of our members have tried to centre this in their messaging, the message has not yet come through clearly. In this strategy session, we want to review the most common targets of our action so far and look into what messaging they supported and whether it was successful or not. From there we will identify possible new targets. Should we focus more on targeting private jets? Or take our protests to the headquarters of the industry’s corporations? What examples do we have where the message of injustice was taken up and what did it have to do with the target we chose? What targets both in the South and in the North would provide a cohesive global action choreography (taking into account different levels of repression)? What are the possible targets to reveal greenwashing and show the destructive side of the global aviation industry? And to what extent should national governments be our target?

Our movement is diverse and there will always be a variety of tactics and targets. However, to make action effective, it is helpful to be clear about the message that a specific target can convey well. If we are rallying for coordinated action in 2023 to address aviation injustice and greenwashing, we should be clear which targets serve this aim the best. We are looking forward to discussing this with you in this strategy session.



Donations

In the registration, we asked for some donations of around 10–15€ per day, to cover a small part of the costs of organising the conference, such as meals, equipment, interpretation and travelling. Donations are voluntary, since we want everyone to be able to attend the conference, regardless of their financial situation. If you haven't transferred your donation yet, you can also contribute in cash at the reception desk at MRES. You can also still transfer your donation to our account:

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IBAN **AT49 1420 0200 1098 0039**
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We are also grateful for any donation to support the continuous work of the Stay Grounded Network.

Acknowledgements



We want to thank everybody involved in the course of making the AviAction Conference happen, from first imagining it, to organising it and carrying it out. In the midst of a world on fire, our strong bonds of solidarity and companionship are what give us the strength to struggle towards a shared vision of a climate-just future.

We are grateful to **NADA**, who offered to host us in Lille, and to all the local people and groups who supported the development of this process.

A special thanks goes to **Charlène, Mina** and **Marie**, who worked tirelessly to connect all our virtual efforts to organise the conference to the real setting in Lille; and to all the venues in Fives who opened their doors on short notice after some last minute difficulties and allowed this conference to take place there.

Thanks to all the **facilitators** of the working groups for their great work and for putting together the introduction texts, as well as to all the **speakers and workshop organisers** for their contributions to the programme.

Thanks to all the **volunteers**, who made this conference possible, and to all the **local hosts** who welcomed participants to their homes.

Thanks to **COATI** for their support with interpretation equipment and for their flexibility throughout the considerable changes happening in the last few weeks of preparations, and to all the **interpreters** whose work made event accessible in different languages.

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Wed, 5 October

06:00 – 07:00 pm	Welcome and registration	MRES
07:00 – 09:00 pm	Opening session – Direct action to counter aviation: Local struggles, global solidarity	Reuze Papa
09:00 – 10:00 pm	Dinner	Reuze Papa

Thu, 6 October

08:30 – 09:00 am	Welcome and registration	MRES
09:00 – 10:00 am	Keynote – Solidarity Beyond Borders: Targeting European institutions involved in destructive airport projects worldwide	Reuze Papa
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 – 12:30 pm	Workshop Slot 1 Brainstorming for innovative low cost/high impact actions Climate justice and aviation Mapping South and North struggles against aviation: companies, movements, campaigns – Trends and issues around Air Cargo, with a focus on ecommerce	Yser Lasécu Lys Reuze Papa
12:30 – 02:30 pm	Lunch	
02:30 – 04:30 pm	Workshop Slot 2 Energy sufficiency: an opportunity to reduce air traffic! Learning to fight together Navigating a Safe Landing: collaborating with aviation workers to transform air travel and ensure a just transition	Super-Quinquin Lasecu Reuze papa

	Nonviolent action – an effective tool for social change?	Lys
	Speechless speeches: how to interrupt people in power at high-level events?	Yser
04:30 – 05:00 pm	Break	
05:00 – 07:00 pm	Panel – The role of direct action for reducing aviation and building a just mobility-system	Reuze Papa
07:00 – 08:00 pm	Dinner	
08:00 – 09:00 pm	Film - Why T-Rex doesn't Fly	

Fri, 7 October

08:30 – 09:00 am	Welcome and registration	
09:00 – 10:00 am	Keynote – Strategies for a grounded future: lessons learned from victories and failures	Reuze Papa
10:00 – 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 – 12:30 pm	Strategy working groups - What would a global call to action in 2023 look like and what should our strategic priorities be	
	Alliances	Reuze Papa
	Communication	Lys
	Global Solidarity	Super-Quinquin
	Tactics	Yser
	Targets	Escaut
12:30 – 02:30 pm	Lunch	
02:30 – 04:30 pm	Open Slot	
	Counselling sessions	Reuze Papa
	Continuation of the strategic discussions	
04:30 – 05:00pm	Break	

05:00 – 07:00 pm	Panel - Towards strategic action in 2023 and beyond: weaving the results of discussions together	Reuze Papa
08:00 – 09:00 pm	Dinner	



Sat, 8 October

08:30 – 09:00 am	Welcome and registration	Reuze Papa
09:00 – 11:00 am	Workshop slot 3	
	Adbusting: Words as a political measure against air traffic	Reuze Papa
	Changing mindsets on (air) travel	Super-Quinquin
	Legal steps against aviation greenwashing	Yser
	Organizing without burning out	Lasécu
	Rapid response actions	Lys
02:00 – 05:00 pm	Action against the expansion of the Lille	
05:00 – 07:00 pm	Gathering, highlights from the action and what comes next	La Voisinierie
07:00 pm	Diner and goodbye party	La Voisinierie

Sun, 9 October

10:00 – 12:00 am	Brunch	L'Objeto-thèque Tipimi
12:00 – 04:00 pm	European Network Meeting	MRES (Yser and Escaut rooms)

