

Regional News	Industry News
<p><b>14 May 2012 - <a href="#">Protestors say no to Thames Estuary airport</a></b> Protesters have gathered outside London's City Hall to campaign against Boris Johnson's proposals for a new Thames Estuary airport.</p> <p><b>14 May 2012 - <a href="#">Sir John Elvidge announced as new chairman of Edinburgh Airport</a></b> Sir John Elvidge, the former permanent secretary to the Scottish government until 2010, will take up the new role upon the completion of the acquisition on 1 June.</p> <p><b>14 May 2012 - <a href="#">Support builds for new Heathrow rail route plan</a></b> Hounslow and Hammersmith &amp; Fulham Councils are backing a scheme by Wandsworth Council to develop a new direct rail service between Waterloo and Heathrow. The scheme is a key measure to improve surface access to the airport and to ease congestion on the Piccadilly Line.</p> <p><b>14 May 2012 - <a href="#">Heathrow could be reduced to "local" airport</a></b> Colin Matthews, the chief executive of BAA, which owns Heathrow, voiced fears that the airport's demise would cause huge damage to London's economy. Last month Katja Hall, the CBI's Chief Policy Director, warned that Britain was in danger of becoming a "branch line" unless it action was taken.</p> <p><b>18 May 2012 - <a href="#">EasyJet recommends improvements at Luton airport</a></b> EasyJet has launched what it calls a 'strategic vision' for London Luton airport and recommended a number of ways in which the base could be improved, including enhanced infrastructure, better accessibility and a more positive consumer image of Luton. A copy of the report can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>16 May 2012 - <a href="#">Cardiff Airport Managing Director, Patrick Duffy, resigns</a></b> Managing director Patrick Duffy's departure follows more criticism of the airport's performance by the first minister on BBC Wales Week In Week Out. The airport has lost nearly a 800,000 passengers since its peak 2007.</p>	<p><b>14 May 2012 - <a href="#">Virgin Atlantic first UK airline to allow in-flight mobile phone calls</a></b> Virgin has become the first UK airline to allow mobile voice calls, with the service limited to 02 and Vodafone customers travelling on board its brand new A330 planes between London and New York.</p>
	<b>Press Releases</b>
	<p><b>16 May 2012 - Association of British Travel Agents Calls for Review of APD Impact and Extra Runway Capacity in South East</b></p> <p>Mark Tanzer Association of British Travel Agencies (ABTA), Chief Executive, called on the Treasury to commission an independent analysis of the impact of Air Passenger Duty (APD) on the UK economy and to reconsider its decision to rule out additional runways elsewhere in the South East after its categorical refusal to allow construction of a third runway at Heathrow.</p> <p>ABTA believes that high levels of APD are putting the whole UK economy at a competitive disadvantage to its continental neighbours and damaging the UK's traditional lead as an international aviation hub. This correlation between high levels of aviation tax and sluggish economic growth has long been recognised on the continent with the Dutch, Belgian and Danish governments all having removed or dropped plans for their versions of APD after assessments of the overall negative impact on their economies. Ireland has reduced its APD rates and now attracts over 1 million customers from Northern Ireland each year.</p>
	<b>SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates</b>
	<p><b>Thursday 14 June 2012 The Aviation Minister, Theresa Villiers, shall be attending.</b> Friday 9 November 2012 and Friday 1 March 2013.</p> <p>Meetings are held between 11am and 1pm, at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; <a href="#">location map</a>.</p>