

Minimising the impact of aviation emissions: what way forward?
An expert meeting aiming to lift off sustainable academic travelling
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Biography:

Dr. Caroline Cauffman is an associate professor at Maastricht University, a visiting professor at the University of Hasselt, a member of the Flying Faculty of the China-EU School of Law, an assessor at the Belgian competition authority and an attorney-at-law. She is coordinator of the Research Program General Law of Obligations and Contracts of the Ius Commune Research School and author of numerous contributions to national and international journals dealing with issues of contract law, consumer law and competition law

Mr. Annick van den Eshof is a lecturer at Maastricht University for the Department of Private Law. She graduated in the field of Dutch contract law and European Law. As part of her master's programme she studied European Environmental Law at Uppsala University.

Abstract:

The aim of voluntary aviation emission compensation schemes is to have private parties pay a sum of money in order to compensate for the carbon pollution caused by flights taken not only for professional purposes but also for leisure or other non-professional purposes. Parties offering voluntary flight compensation schemes are generally not regulated. Everyone may decide to start up a flight compensation scheme. Contracts are often concluded online. The consumer pays in return for better air quality, but that is of course a very abstract concept. Even if the operator of the scheme indicates what he will use the money for: buying carbon emission rights, contributing to a project in developing countries, etc. it is often very difficult for an individual consumer to verify what his money is actually used for. The question therefore arises: what guarantees does the law offer consumers that their money is actually used to improve air quality? And what does the law do to protect the consumer who regrets after a few days the payment he made under the influence of an impassioned Greta Thunberg. Or from the opposite perspective, what rules should be taken into account by an organisation offering carbon compensation products to consumers and does it matter in this regard whether the organisation is a business or a non-profit organisation?