

Belgium To Introduce New Taxes On Short-Haul Flights & Private Jets

Officials are looking to clamp down on noise and air pollution.

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Photo: Brussels Airport



Belgium's authorities are set to introduce a new tax on certain aircraft and flights in spring 2023. Aged and noisy aircraft, along with private planes, will be subject to the new taxation. Additionally, short-haul commercial services will be taxed.

Increasing the terms

Even though aircraft utilizing Brussels Airport are required to pay tax based on the amount of noise made during takeoff and landing, smaller models are usually exempt. This exemption is coming to an end on April 1st of next year. The goal is to tax additional aspects such as air pollution and emissions.

The destination is also a factor, with aircraft heading to nearer airports subject to the new tax. Ultimately, the rates will rise for flights flying to a destination that is fewer than 310 mi (500 km) away.

Georges Gilkinet, Belgium's deputy prime minister and minister in charge of transport, shared the following in a statement, as reported by Reuters:

"The noise pollution experienced by residents near Brussels National Airport, whether they live in Flanders, Brussels or Wallonia, cannot remain as it is."

Continental measures

While this is a Belgium-based tax, local aviation only accounts for 12% of the country's total air traffic. Thus, along with [Brussels Airlines](#), airlines across Europe will be keeping a close eye on requirements heading into the new year.

Just last week, [the EU approved France's ban on domestic flights, albeit with some stipulations](#). The move bans domestic scheduled flights within the country if an alternative means of transport, including rail, can serve the route in under 2.5 hours.

While Belgium's move isn't as stringent, it highlights the ever-growing push to curb emissions amid ambitious sustainability targets. All in all, the EU targets net zero European aviation by 2050.

Looking ahead

Air operators would be determined to be part of the conversation amid the route to zero emissions and remain a core choice of transport over other means. They would also be looking to reduce the number of taxes imposed on them. As a result, manufacturers and airlines are working intently on electric and hydrogen solutions, especially regarding short-haul operations.

Even in the current era, modern aircraft such as the Embraer E195-E2 are offering a valuable solution to meet demand while considering the locals. The aircraft made its first trip to London City Airport this year, a facility that is heavily monitored when it comes to noise pollution. However, the jet brings at least a 65% reduction in noise footprint area compared to others in its generation operating at the site.

Firms such as Rolls-Royce, ZeroAvia, and Airbus have been sharing promising hints of what's to come when it comes to hydrogen aviation. Meanwhile, the likes of easyJet and Lufthansa have shared how excited they are to introduce such aircraft.

Policies such as Belgium's tax and France's rules will only catalyze the initiative to introduce a new wave of sustainable air travel.

What are your thoughts on this Belgian aviation tax? What do you make of the overall prospects of the move? Let us know what you think in the comment section.

Source: [Reuters](#)