

GARS Down-Under Seminar “Current Issues in Aviation” A Review

By Nathalie McCaughey

Last week the Economics department in conjunction with the German Aviation Research Society (GARS) hosted a two-day seminar on ‘Current Issues in Air Transport’. Around fifty delegates from the ACCC, the PC, the Federal Department of Transport, the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) and universities in Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, the United States, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore and Australia were treated to a panel discussion and sixteen papers from a vast range of air transport related topics. The presented papers covered all the currently ‘hot topics’ in aviation including airport/air transport regulation and the ETS. All papers were well-received and discussed by the audience. One of the conference highlights (apart from the conference dinner ☺) however was the very lively panel discussion organised by Prof. Forsyth on airport regulation in Australia. This is a very topical issue currently, since the PC is conducting a long awaited inquiry into Australian regulation of airports. The Dean, Prof. Stephen King, moderated the discussion keeping things orderly although some tempers were getting heated. The panel consisted of a representative from the ACCC (Mr. Marcus James), a representative of the Federal Dept of Transport (Mr. Anthony Wing) and two internationally renowned experts of airport regulation: Prof Hans-Martin Niemeier from Germany and lawyer Mr. Marc Toner (Webb Henderson) from New Zealand. The representative of the PC could, for obvious reasons, not officially participate in the panel, however he was an active audience participant.

Let me end this little review by thanking once more our head of department, Prof. Russell Smyth, for providing us with generous funding to enable GARS Down-Under! Furthermore many thanks to Dr. Mehmet Ozmen from the Dept of Econometrics for his hands-on assistance prior, during and after the event and Mr. Ahmed Skali for being readily available at short notice. In the spirit of former IOC President Juan A. Samaranch let me state that ‘*this GARS Down-Under seminar was the best we ever had !*’

Photos



Program of GARS-Down Under with mascots



Prof. Peter Forsyth introducing the panellists and topic



The panellists, from the left: Prof. Niemeier, Mr Anthony Wing, Prof. King, Mr Toner and Mr James (standing)



During the break: Guest of the Department Prof. Andreas Wittmer – Uni St. Gallen/Switzerland networks with Dr. Melanie Murphy and Alexandra Leipold from the German Aerospace Centre in Cologne.



Enjoying time-off! From the left: Dr. Rico Merkert (Uni Cranfield –UK), Nathalie McCaughey (Monash Uni), Mr. Christiaan Behrens (Guest of the Department – VU Uni Amsterdam – Netherlands) and Mr. Wolfgang Grimme (German Aerospace Centre Cologne – Germany).