

## Second Annual IAWA European Leadership Forum 2019

### Key events of the day

- Opening key-note address from Catherine Adams, *Acting Director of Aviation and Deputy Director for Aviation Strategy & Communications, Department for Transport*
- Talk from Liz Sparrow, *Member of British Gliding Team WWGC2019 and Department for Transport Aviation Ambassador*
- Interview with Maggie Philbin OBE, CEO, *TeenTech by Julia Radius, IAWA scholarship winner, Delft University of Technology*
- **Panel I - Feeding our Future Talent Pipeline**
- Key-note address from Elisabeth Kotthaus, *Head of Unit for Social Affairs, Passenger Rights & Equal Opportunities, European Commission*
- Talk from Charles Newitt, *COO, London Air Ambulance - London's Air Ambulance Charity - Aviation Operations in a Congested City*
- **Panel II - Sustainable Aviation and Climate Change**
- Inspiring Model: Dr Suzie Imber, *Planetary Scientist and Pro-Vice Chancellor at the University of Leicester*
- Talk from Mary Macleod, *Senior Client Partner, Korn Ferry - Soaring Through the Glass Ceiling – Taking the Global Aviation and Aerospace Industry to New Heights through Inclusion and Diversity*
- **Panel III - The Economics of Aviation and the Global Market Forecast**
- **Panel IV - Aviation & Geopolitics - Brexit and Beyond**
- Inspiring Model: Mélanie Astles, *First Female Pilot to compete in the Red Bull Air Race*
- Evening Network Reception with all delegates and speakers

With special thanks to our *Gold Sponsors*: Airbus, Boeing, Aviation Logistics Network and our *Associate Sponsor* Clyde & Co.

### Notable Outcome: 5 new WiAA Charter signatories

The Women in Aviation and Aerospace Charter is a UK government Charter committing the UK's aviation and aerospace sectors to work together to build a more balanced and fair industry for women. An IAWA Connect event held in London in May 2018 led to this Charter's launch by the UK Prime Minister at the Farnborough Air Show in July 2018. At the IAWA European Leadership Forum, 5 new signatories came on board to support the Charter taking the total number of signatories and supporting organisations to 185.



### Overview:

With just over 150 people from around the world that attended the second annual IAWA European Leadership Forum in London, the forum was a huge success! Rising high above the River Thames, the day started with an opening key-note address from Catherine Adams, Acting

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Director of Aviation at the Department for Transport, with a talk about the importance of women in aviation and how talent retention is key. Setting the tone for the day, Catherine was followed by a very inspiring talk from Liz Sparrow, Member of the British Gliding Team who encouraged women to consider alternative opportunities for recreational activities, a highlight from Liz's talk was that a child once said to one of her female pilot friends that they 'didn't know men could be pilots!' after discovering their father was also a pilot.



The heartwarming and inspirational morning continued with a fireside interview with Maggie Philbin OBE, TeenTech CEO, conducted by Julia Radius, our very own IAWA scholarship winner. The interview was an insightful look into the work Maggie has been carrying out to help young people understand the opportunities of STEM careers, no matter what their gender or social background. The interview also raised the importance of STEM being taught in schools which many delegates found the aims of their organisations aligned with.



This led us well into the STEM panel, where discussion focused on introducing the younger generation to STEM and then retaining female talent at a later date, a topic relevant to all delegates and their organisations. A second key-note address by Elisabeth Kotthaus outlined the importance of increasing gender balance in the transport sector and the way in which the European Commission are addressing this issue, with the launch of their platform *Women in Transport - EU Platform for change*.

Following on from this we heard insightful discussion covering the topic of climate change from our sustainability panel. A very topical discussion that aligned with our event being paperless this year! Mary Macelod then took us through Korn Ferry's study on Inclusion and Diversity in the Aviation & Aerospace Industry, *Soaring Through the Glass Ceiling*. Despite many people being inspired to take more action within their organisation to tackle inclusion and diversity, It was highlighted that 'it is time for both women and men to soar' and delegates were posed with the question of what their commitment to making the aviation industry more inclusive would be.

As the day continued, delegates enjoyed a further two panels in the afternoon including: a Global Market Forecast panel and a Brexit panel, featuring both Airbus and Boeing. A key conclusion was that although historic competitors, Airbus and Boeing both had a similar



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outlook on the Global Market Forecast and growth potential. Mélanie Astles then closed the conference for the day on a real high sharing her experiences of being a Red Bull Air Race pilot and the only woman to win the Red Bull Air Race. Overlooking the glittering skyline of London, delegates were able to unwind and network after an excellent day at the IAWA European Forum.

### **Some key highlights of the day included:**

#### *Charles Newitt*

Charles Newitt, London Air Ambulance Deputy CEO and COO was able to highlight the importance of the charity that operates within London. His talk wowed the audience as he showed the ambulance's ability to land anywhere and the importance of having full awareness of the operational environment. The opportunity to preserve and save lives through the medical care that is provided by the charity is phenomenal. Delegates were left feeling truly humbled by the work the charity carries out on a daily basis.



#### *Dr Suzie Imber*

After lunch, delegates felt the infectious energy from Suzie Imber. A Planetary Scientist, and Pro-Vice Chancellor at the [University of Leicester](#). She was the winner of the 2017 [BBC Two](#) television program *Astronauts, Do You Have What It Takes?* Suzie's talk covered a number of impressive achievements including being a runner, rower and intrepid mountaineer on top of everything else. Delegates were left feeling in awe and as though they too may have what it takes to be an astronaut.



#### *Mélanie Astles*

The final talk of the day was from Mélanie Astles, a fearless Red Bull Air Race Pilot. Mélanie's talk showed a different path into aviation and after smashing through the glass ceiling when originally being told she could not be a pilot, Mélanie showed her enthralled audience a series of stomach churning flight routines which finished the conference on a real high.



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## Feedback from delegates on the day

*'I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and feel confident that whatever path within aviation I choose to join after uni I will have support from IAWA. The opportunity to speak and network with influential women really inspired me to fully consider the opportunities available to me. I found the London Air Ambulance talk particularly interesting. Thank you especially to Tanya and the team for organising such a fabulous event.'*

*'Don't try to be a man, be proud to be a woman. The aviation industry is still a man's world, we need to ensure our voices are heard and it should come from us. IAWA has a key role to play. In order to be successful we need to engage with our male colleagues, it is impossible without their support.'*

*'I really enjoyed the mix between panels, keynote speeches and the story telling. The food and drinks were fantastic. We also got an opportunity to network with lots of people – from lawyers to engineers etc. The venue was amazing!'*

*'What an amazing event, so much passion and enthusiasm to change perspectives within and around the Aviation industry for the better. It was a real privilege to be invited along.'*

*'Thanks so much and well done for an outstanding event – a great agenda, really useful and topical discussions and inspiring, diverse and knowledgeable speakers.'*

## Final Word:

We are so grateful to our sponsors, speakers, volunteers, and attendees for making this conference possible. Whether you were able to attend this conference or not, we hope to see you back next year – or even sooner at one of our other events!



If you are interested in supporting the next forum or any IAWA event, please contact:  
[info@iawa.org](mailto:info@iawa.org)

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