

France bans public, short-haul flights to cut carbon emissions — but critics say it ‘will have very little impact’

France signed into law this week a ban on domestic, short-haul flights when the journey can be completed in less than two-and-a-half hours by train.

The new decree, which seeks to reduce carbon emissions, prohibits “regular public passenger air transport services.” However, the ban does not appear to extend to private jet travel.

According to Greenpeace, private jet travel in Europe in 2022 increased by 64% — a record high that more than doubled carbon emissions. The organization also found that of those flights last year, 55% traveled distances under 750 kilometers or 466 miles.

For a public air route to be discontinued in France, there must be a high-speed train available to travelers that “provides a satisfactory alternative service,” according to a statement translated by CNBC.

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