

UK regulator bans Ryanair's 'misleading' green adverts

February 5 2020, by Roland Jackson



Ryanair maintains it is the "greenest" airline in Europe

A British regulator on Wednesday banned advertisements by Ryanair that gave "misleading" claims over the Irish airline's "low" level of carbon emissions—a move welcomed by environmental campaigners.

The Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) ruled that the no-frills airline's September radio, television and print advertisements broke the UK regulator's rules on environmental claims and on misleading consumers.

Ryanair boasted that it "has the lowest carbon emissions of any major airline".

ASA said it had called on Ryanair "to ensure that when making environmental claims, they held adequate evidence to substantiate them and to ensure that the basis of those claims were made clear".

In reaction, Ryanair said it was "disappointed and surprised" and maintained that it is the "greenest" airline in Europe—adding that it had successfully run the same advertisement in ten European nations.

Environmental pressure group Transport & Environment slammed Ryanair for so-called greenwashing—a term used by critics to describe corporate efforts to mislead consumers to believe a company's products or practices are more environmentally sound or friendly.

"Ryanair should stop greenwashing and start doing something to tackle its sky-high emissions," said the campaign group's aviation manager Jo Dardenne.

"This ruling is a reminder that the aviation sector's climate impact is soaring."

Rory Boland, editor of consumer magazine Which? Travel, said its own probe had also uncovered doubts over Ryanair's [carbon](#) offsetting scheme.

"Millions of travellers want to make greener choices when they go on

holiday, so the regulator is right to crack down on companies that make this more difficult with misleading information," he said.

Wednesday's ban came one day after the Sustainable Aviation industry alliance—which does not include Ryanair —vowed to slash [carbon emissions](#) to zero over the next 30 years, in line with UK government targets.

The alliance includes planemakers Airbus and Boeing, engine-maker Rolls-Royce, London's Heathrow airport and airlines BA and EasyJet.

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