



Liege, 7 February 2022

**Stop the extension of Liege Airport: a blockade by Stop Alibaba & Co**

This Monday 7 February, xx activists are blockading the concrete plant in Bierset. By stopping the machine that feeds the airport's construction sites, the message is clear: Stop the extension of Liege Airport.

For more than two years now, Stop Alibaba & Co and other groups have been alerting people to the social and environmental issues at stake in the redevelopment of Liege Airport and the arrival of the logistics subsidiary of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. According to activists, this extension "is part of an environmentally suicidal headlong rush, that is also disastrous from a social and economic point of view".

Stop Alibaba & Co is opposed to the project because:

- 1) The airport, which today emits the same amount of CO2 as the Province of Walloon Brabant, would end up emitting as much, in 2040, as the whole of Wallonia (1). In addition to these emissions, there is also fine particle and noise pollution that adversely affects the health and well-being of local residents.
- 2) The number of jobs that the airport claims it will create is in severe doubt. According to Mounir Mahjoubi, former French Minister for Digital Affairs, every job generated by Amazon has resulted in the loss of two jobs elsewhere in the economy (2).
- 3) In 20 years, more than €1.24 billion in public funds have been injected into the operation and infrastructure of Bierset Airport (3).
- 4) The project would lead to the concreting of 350 hectares (3.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of land with high agricultural potential.
- 5) The municipality of Grâce-Hollogne continues to issue planning permission for the extension while the environmental impact study for the renewal of the operating permit (due in 2023) has not been completed.

"The extension of Liege Airport runs counter to today's and tomorrow's climatic and social challenges. The decisions we take now will have consequences for generations to come. **There is no time for half measures.** By opposing this project, Stop Alibaba & Co want to defend sustainable projects, protect quality jobs and ensure the health & well-being of citizens. **Let's invest in the future in a different way, let's enter into a viable dynamic that respects the living world.**

The group calls for an immediate moratorium on all extension projects, while a meaningful impact study is carried out and a genuine democratic debate is allowed to take place, "demands that should constitute the minimum basis in any self-respecting democracy, but which are ignored by the leaders in place."

**In parallel to the blockade action in Bierset, Stop Alibaba & Co is holding a convivial space for the exchange of ideas and meetings at the Brasserie du cinéma, Sauvenière, between 12p.m. and 8p.m.** The collective invites anyone who would like to show their opposition to the extension project and their support for the activists to meet at 6p.m. on Xavier Neujean Square.

All practical information on this action, as well as the reasons of the struggle, are available on the website of the collective <http://stopalibaba.com/>, or via the contact address: [presse@stopalibaba.com](mailto:presse@stopalibaba.com).

## References :

1. Pierre Ozer, climatologist and geography professor at ULiège. [https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/242331/11/CO2\\_LIEGE%20AIRPORT\\_20200121.pdf](https://orbi.uliege.be/bitstream/2268/242331/11/CO2_LIEGE%20AIRPORT_20200121.pdf)
2. <http://d.mounirmahjoubi.fr/AmazonVerslinfiniEtPoleEmploi.pdf>
3. Imagine Magazine, January 2022, p. 26-41