



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 9: Air Transport

AEROPOLITICAL RELATIONS

(Presented by AACO)

SUMMARY

This working paper highlights the importance of further pursuing liberalized policies.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A number of Arab airlines have become globally competitive which is helping in expanding the economic benefits of air transport, creating more jobs, and contributing massively in the national and regional sustainable economic development. This global expansion is providing the customers of the world with choices and options for travel which did not exist before. However, the competitiveness of those airlines is sometimes being challenged by protectionism in some parts of the world.

2. DISCUSSION

Situation in the Arab world

2.1 Liberalization of market access in between Arab states and investments by other Arab states in Arab airlines is still restricted although a starting tool has been developed for such liberalization i.e. the Damascus Convention. To benefit from the Damascus Convention, it needs to be fully implemented in relations between Arab governments and in case there are reservations on some provisions in the Convention, those governments could consider the option of phasing in the freedoms included in the Convention.

ICAO

2.2 Work is currently underway in ICAO to develop a liberalization vision and templates of liberalized agreements for market access and foreign investments in airlines. Work of ICAO's ATRP will be revisited in their meeting in September to be presented to ICAO's next Assembly in 2016.

3. AACO'S OPINION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1- AACO praises Arab CAAs for embracing the aviation sector as a major contributor to job creation and economic development.
- 2- AACO urges Arab CAAs to continue pursuing liberalized policies where they are present and to lessen restrictions on other-Arab investments.
- 3- AACO urges Arab CAAs to follow up on the revision of the EU Regulation 868/2004 and the whole expected new EU aviation package due to its protectionist tendency since the ideas included in the revision and consultation thereof specifically mention protecting the competitiveness of EU airlines and airports.
- 4- AACO also urges Arab CAAs to actively participate in the ATRP work in order to avoid inclusion of global principles that give rise to protectionist policies.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 4.1 The meeting is invited to endorse the recommendations in para. 3.

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