

WORLDWIDE AIR TRANSPORT CONFERENCE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF LIBERALIZATION

Montreal, 24-29 March 2003

AGENDA

1. PREVIEW

- 1.1 **Background to and experience of liberalization:** Basic concept and approaches; issues in regulation and commercialization of air carriers, airports and air navigation service providers; benefits and drawbacks; influence of broader regulatory environment including trade, fiscal, competition, social and labour policies.
- 1.2 **Safety and security aspects of liberalization:** Safety and security implications of commercialization, outsourcing and transnational commercial arrangements.

2. EXAMINATION OF KEY REGULATORY ISSUES IN LIBERALIZATION

- 2.1 **Air carrier ownership and control:** Alternative criteria for designation and authorization; inward (foreign) investment; right of establishment; nationality of aircraft.
- 2.2 **Market access:** Traffic rights (primarily beyond third and fourth freedoms but including, for example, routing and operational flexibility); capacity/frequency; airport access and slot allocation; airline alliances, codesharing and franchising; leasing; specific aspects relating to air cargo and express services and to intermodal transport.
- 2.3 **Fair competition and safeguards:** Safeguards against anti-competitive practices (such as in pricing, capacity provision, sales and marketing); application of competition laws/policies (including implications for multilateral cooperative arrangements amongst air carriers); sustainability of air carriers and assurance of service (including provision of State aid); preferential measures for, and effective participation of, developing countries.
- 2.4 **Consumer interests:** Consumer rights and obligations (including conditions of carriage); measures to safeguard consumer interests.
- 2.5 **Product distribution:** Commercial presence; electronic business to customer (B2C) commerce (including computer reservation systems and the Internet).

- 2.6 **Dispute resolution:** Alternative dispute settlement mechanisms and their inter-relationship (in the context of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements).
- 2.7 **Transparency:** Registration of agreements/arrangements (including obligations under Article 83 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation) and access to information.

3. **REVIEW OF TEMPLATE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 Comprehensive template air services agreement containing alternative approaches for discretionary use by States (selectively or in full) in a bilateral, regional or multilateral context.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR ONGOING LIBERALIZATION**

- 4.1 **Mechanisms to facilitate further liberalization:** Role and future work programme of ICAO; relations with other international organizations (multilateral and regional, governmental and non-governmental).
- 4.2 **Declaration of global principles for international air transport:** Adoption of a declaration based on a draft text prepared in advance, but taking into account discussions on all above Agenda items.

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