

ACI EUROPE

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Europe's airports welcome outcome of latest round of EU-US negotiations

For immediate release

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Brussels, 26 March 2010: Yesterday saw the EU and US initial the second phase of the air transportation agreement concluded in 2007. This new agreement negotiated by John Byerly (US Department of State) and Daniel Calleja-Crespo (Delegation of the European Union and its 27 Members States joined by Norway and Iceland) effectively builds upon the first phase, which liberalised international air traffic rights between Europe and the US.¹

ACI EUROPE Director General Olivier Jankovec commented "*Although this agreement does not do away with the outdated US restrictions on airline ownership & control, it still grants more stability to the liberalised transatlantic market and significantly improves cooperation between the EU and the US. These are key wins, at a time when aviation continues to face economic uncertainty.*"

He added "In particular, the enhanced cooperation in the areas of competition, air traffic management, safety and security will benefit the travelling public, our airport members and their communities. As active participants in these negotiations, ACI EUROPE welcomes this result and will play its part to ensure the successful implementation of this new agreement."

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Notes:

¹The first phase of the air transportation agreement yielded a groundbreaking opening up of traffic rights between the two continents, which accounts for around 60% of global air passenger traffic. This liberalisation of traffic rights came into effect in April 2008, allowing any airline of the European Union and any airline of the United States to fly between any point in the European Union and any point in the United States.

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ACI EUROPE is the European region of Airports Council International (ACI), the only worldwide professional association of airport operators. ACI EUROPE represents over 400 airports in 46 European countries. Member airports handle 90% of commercial air traffic in Europe, welcoming more than 1.5 billion passengers each year.

Press release