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Our Ref: 48732 Contact Officer: Mark Basile Contact Phone: (03) 9290 1855

May 2012

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Daniel McGuiness Senior Associate **DLA Piper** PO Box 7804

Waterfront Place QLD 4001

By email: stephen.corones@dlapiper.com; daniel.mcguiness@dlapiper.com

Dear Mr Corones and Mr McGuiness

Etihad Airways and Air Berlin applications for authorisation A91307 & A91308 interested party consultation

I refer to the applications for authorisation lodged by Etihad Airways and Air Berlin with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) on 26 April 2012.

Please find enclosed, for your information, a copy of the letter the ACCC sent today to potentially interested parties as part of its public consultation process.

All publicly available submissions will be posted on the ACCC internet site at <www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister>. Upon request, at the end of the consultation period the ACCC can provide you with a copy of all publicly available submissions received in relation to the applications.

Timetable

The ACCC will progress its assessment of the applications in a timely manner. An indicative timetable is set out below for your information.

26 April 2012	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
3 May 2012	Public consultation process begins.
10 May 2012	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation
May 2012	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
24 May 2012	Closing date for submissions from interested parties on authorisation.
1 June 2012	Applicants respond to issues raised in the public consultation process.
June/July	Draft determination.
July 2012	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
August/September 2012	Final determination.

This letter has been placed on the ACCC's public register. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Basile on (03) 9290 1855.

Yours sincerely

David Jones

Director

Adjudication Branch