



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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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 –
request for interim authorisation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has decided to grant interim authorisation in respect of the application for authorisation lodged by Etihad and Air Berlin on 26 April 2012. A copy of the ACCC's decision is attached.

Interim authorisation protects the arrangements for which authorisation is sought from legal action under the relevant provisions of the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* while the ACCC considers and evaluates the merits of the application.

Next steps

For your information, the next step in the process is for the ACCC to release a draft determination which will take account of any submissions from Etihad, Air Berlin and interested parties and will indicate the ACCC's preliminary views on the merits of the application. The ACCC will give Etihad, Air Berlin and interested parties the opportunity to provide a further submission on the draft determination before the ACCC issues its final decision.

As noted in the attached decision document, the ACCC may review its decision on interim authorisation at any time. In this regard the ACCC will reconsider this decision at the time of

issuing its draft determination. The ACCC's decision in relation to interim authorisation should not be taken to be indicative of whether or not final authorisation will be granted by the ACCC.

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



Dr Richard Chadwick
General Manager
Adjudication Branch