



**Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission**

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11 November 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Etihad Airways PJSC & Alitalia applications for authorisation A91468 & A91469
– interested party consultation**

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) is currently conducting a consultation process on applications for authorisation received from Etihad Airways PJSC & Alitalia (the Applicants) on 6 November 2014.

The Applicants are seeking authorisation for ten years for the provisions of their co-operation agreement which relate to various matters including the scheduling and pricing of international air transport services (the Proposed Conduct).

The purpose of this letter is to invite you, as a potentially interested party, to comment on the application. Please see the ACCC's publication [Authorisation process - the basics](#) for a summary of the authorisation process and how to make a submission to the ACCC.

A copy of the application is available on the ACCC's website www.accc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister.

Interim authorisation

The Applicants have also requested interim authorisation for the Proposed Conduct.

The ACCC endeavours to deal with requests for interim authorisation quickly. In making an assessment as to whether it is appropriate to grant interim authorisation, the ACCC is not required to undertake a full assessment of the benefit and detriment likely to arise as a result of the proposed conduct.

The ACCC decides whether to grant interim authorisation on a case by case basis. Should an applicant request interim authorisation, the ACCC will usually consider a range of factors, including:

- harm to the applicant and other parties if interim authorisation is or is not granted
- possible benefit and detriment to the public
- the urgency of the matter and
- whether the market would be able to return to substantially its pre-interim state if the ACCC should later deny authorisation.

Request for submissions

The ACCC invites you to make a submission on the likely public benefits and effect on competition, or any other public detriment, from the proposed arrangements.

If you intend to provide a submission in relation to the applications for authorisation and/or the Applicants' request for interim authorisation and please do so by **28 November 2014**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@accc.gov.au with the subject "A91468 & A91469 – Etihad Airways PJSC & Alitalia – submission".

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029 or via email adjudication@accc.gov.au to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Please see the ACCC's publication [Guidelines for excluding information from the public register](#).

Timetable

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

Indicative date	Stage in assessment process
6 Nov 2014	Lodgement of application and supporting submission, including request for interim authorisation.
11 Nov 2014	Public consultation process begins.
28 Nov 2014	Closing date for submissions on interim authorisation and the applications for authorisation.
3 Dec 2014	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
Dec 2014	ACCC decision regarding interim authorisation.
Dec 2014 – Jan 2015	Draft determination.
Dec 2014 – Jan 2015	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
Feb – Mar 2015	Final determination.

Please advise if you do not wish to make a submission at this time, but would like to be informed of the progress of the applications at the draft and final determination stages. If you are able to, please provide a nominated contact email address for future

correspondence. You can also forward this letter to any other party who may wish to make a submission to the ACCC regarding the applications.

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 Tanya Hobbs on 02 6243 1029 or adjudication@accc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication Branch

Interested Party List

Aerolineas Argentinas
Air China
Air Mauritius
AirAsia X
Airport Coordination Australia (ACA)
Airservices Australia
Australia Pacific Airports (Melbourne) Pty Ltd
Australian & International Pilots Association
Australian Airports Association (AAA)
Australian Federation of Travel Agents
Australian Industry Group
Australian Licenced Aircraft Engineers Association
Australian Services Union
Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB)
Brisbane Airport Corporation Limited
British Airways
Bureau of Meteorology
Cathay Pacific Airways
Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation
China Airlines
China Eastern
China Southern Airlines
CHOICE
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)
Consolidated Travel Group
Consumer Action Law Centre
Consumer's Federation of Australia
Delta Air Lines, Inc
Department of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts Tasmania
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
Emirates
Fed Ex
ICMS
International Air Services Commission
K.I.S.S. Travel International
LAN Airlines
National Tourism Alliance
Perth Airport Pty Ltd
Qantas Airways
Qatar Airlines
Queensland Airports Limited
Queensland Government Aviation Committee (Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation)
Regional Aviation Association of Australia (RAAA)
Regional Express (Rex)
Singapore Airlines Ltd
Solomon Airlines
Sydney Airport
Sydney Airport Corporation Limited
Tiger Airways Australia Pty Limited
Tour Hosts Pty Limited

Tourism Australia
Tourism NSW
Tourism Queensland
Tourism Victoria
Tourism WA
Transport Workers Union
United Airlines
VIPA
Virgin Australia Pty Ltd
Alpha Flight Services
AVIA Flight Services
Executive Gourmet
Gate Gourmet
Q Catering
Air BP
Caltex
Shell Aviation
ExxonMobil Aviation
Aero-Care
Gate Aviation
Menzies Aviation
Toll Dnata
Wymap Group
Patrick Air Services
Oceania Aviation