



Our ref: 61387
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Via email

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Dear sir/madam

Applications for authorisation A91563 & A91564 from Etihad Airways PJSC and Air Serbia AD - interested party consultation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has received applications for authorisation from Etihad Airways and Air Serbia. The ACCC invites you to comment on the application. Attached is a summary of the authorisation process including how to make a submission to the ACCC.

Etihad Airways and Air Serbia seek authorisation for a Commercial Cooperation Agreement to allow for coordination of pricing, scheduling and marketing activities and other co-operative activities.

A full copy of the application for authorisation is available on the ACCC's website www.acc.gov.au/AuthorisationsRegister. Alternatively, you can contact Kathryn Burela on (03) 9290 1474 to obtain a hard copy of the application and submission.

Interim authorisation

Etihad Airways and Air Serbia have also requested interim authorisation.

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 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 applicant's application for authorisation, and/or request for interim authorisation please do so by **17 January 2017**. Submissions should be emailed to adjudication@acc.gov.au with the subject 'A91563 & A91564 – Etihad Airways and Air Serbia – submission'.

Alternatively, if you would like to provide comments orally, please contact Kathryn Burela on (03) 9290 1474 to organise a suitable time.

Submissions, including oral submissions, will be placed on the ACCC's public register subject to any request for exclusion. Information on excluding submissions from the public register is available on the [ACCC website](#).

Timetable

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

7 December 2016	Lodgement of application and supporting submission.
13 December 2016	Public consultation process begins.
17 January 2017	Closing date for submissions.
25 January 2017	Applicant responds to issues raised in the public consultation process.
February 2017	Interim authorisation and Draft determination.
February – March 2017	Public consultation on draft determination including any conference if called.
March – April 2017	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 Kathryn Burela on (03) 9290 1474 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication Branch