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Sent by email: Simon.Uthmeyer@dlapiper.com, Alec.White@dlapiper.com

Dear Mr Uthmeyer

Etihad and Air Serbia applications for authorisation A91563 & A91564 - draft determination & interim authorisation

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the ACCC) has issued a draft determination in respect of the applications for authorisation lodged by Etihad and Air Serbia on 7 December 2016.

Draft determination & interim authorisation

A copy of the ACCC's draft determination and summary of its reasons is attached.

For the reasons set out in its draft determination, the ACCC proposes to grant authorisation for ten years.

As set out in the draft determination, the ACCC has also granted interim authorisation to give effect to the Co-operation Agreement the subject of the applications for authorisation.

Next steps

Once the ACCC issues a draft determination, the Applicant or any interested party may make a written submission and/or request that the ACCC convene a 'pre-decision conference'.

If you wish to make a submission in response to the ACCC's draft determination, please lodge your submission by **3 March 2017**.

A pre-decision conference provides the opportunity for interested parties to make oral submissions in relation to the draft determination. Conferences are conducted informally and while legal or professional advisers are able to attend they are not entitled to participate in the discussion.

If you wish the ACCC to hold a pre-decision conference in relation to the draft determination you must notify the ACCC in writing by **3 March 2017**.

The ACCC will consider any submissions it receives, including any oral submissions made should a pre-decision conference be called, and will then release a final determination in relation to these applications.

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 continue to progress its assessment of the application in a timely manner. An updated 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.
15 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.

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 Saraj Bhullar on (03) 9290 1941 or adjudication@acc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Jones
Director
Adjudication Branch