



12 November 2024

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
23 Marcus Clarke Street
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: exemptions@accc.gov.au

Dear ACCC,

RE: Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways Application AA1000679

Thank you for the opportunity for the European Australian Business Council (EABC) to make a brief submission in relation to the application by Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways.

The EABC is a peak business association working to promote to the trade and investment relationship between Australia and Europe as a critical economic partner, and have worked closely with Virgin Australia for many years as a member organisation. The views expressed in this letter should not be taken as representative of any member company, chamber of commerce, official agencies, or any other member of the Council.

Travel connections for both business and leisure, and air cargo are of critical importance to the Australia-Europe business relations. As you would be aware, major European carriers to have withdrawn serviced to the market, which is served by a limited number of domestic airlines and a broad range of international operators with routes to Europe predominantly through Asia and the Middle East.

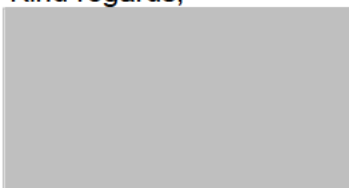
Australian airlines have operated codeshare and other partnership agreements with international partners for flights to European destinations, and the proposed partnership between Virgin Australia and Qatar Airways represents a welcome expansion of opportunities for increased capacity and choice for business and leisure travellers.

I write in support of the application:

- as the proposed Virgin-Qatar partnership will significantly stabilise and strengthen the competitive market for international travel.
- as a significant global hub, Doha and Qatar Airlines provide an important and in-demand connection between Australia and Europe
- access to high-quality, regular services for business and leisure travel between Australia and Europe will be significantly enhanced by the proposed partnership
- the increased competition and diversification of service offerings for business and leisure travel are welcome
- the partnership will also enhance options for cargo and other transport services in addition to passenger travel

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Kind regards,



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