

ARTICLE 14

Competitive Environment

1. The Parties acknowledge that it is their joint objective to have a fair and competitive environment for the operation of the air services. The Parties recognise that fair competitive practices by airlines are most likely to occur where these airlines operate on a fully commercial basis and are not state subsidised. They recognise that matters, such as, but not limited to the conditions under which airlines are privatised, the removal of competition distorting subsidies, equitable and non-discriminatory access to airport facilities and services and to computer reservation systems are key factors to achieve a fair and competitive environment.
2. If a Party finds that conditions exist in the territory of the other Party that would adversely affect a fair and competitive environment and its airlines' operation of the air services under this Agreement, it may submit observations to the other Party. Furthermore, it may request a meeting of the Joint Committee. The Parties accept that the degree to which the objectives in the Agreement related to a competitive environment may be undermined by a subsidy or other intervention is a legitimate subject for discussion in the Joint Committee.
3. Issues that may be raised under this Article 14 include, but are not limited to, capital injections, cross subsidisation, grants, guarantees, ownership, tax relief or tax exemption, protection against bankruptcy or insurance by any government entities. Subject to paragraph 4 of Article 14, a Party, upon notification to the other Party, may approach responsible government entities in the territory of the other Party including entities at the state, provincial or local level to discuss matters relating to this Article.
4. The Parties recognise the cooperation between their respective competition authorities as evidenced by the Agreement between the Government of Canada and the European Communities regarding the Application of their Competition Laws, done at Bonn on 17 June 1999.