

Towards Recommendations

There is every reason to believe that the evolution from a tightly regulated, structured international air transport regime to one that allows greater freedom of choice will continue. Competition and market forces rather than regulatory constraints will increasingly determine the choices made by carriers about the services they wish to offer and the process will, as in the past, not evolve at the same pace in all respects in all parts of the world. However, it is not one from which Canada can stand aside, nor should we. Our objective must be to provide the framework that will enable our carriers to exploit new opportunities to the best of their ability and at the same time provide safe, convenient and competitively priced air transport services to Canadians.

Broadly speaking, this calls for an easing of regulation where it stands in the way of achieving those objectives. However, we could not do this alone because restrictions on the full play of market forces are to a substantial degree embedded in international agreements, and other countries are likely to pursue policies that favour their own carriers. Moreover, we must recognize that effective opportunities for Canadian carriers are sometimes constrained by the characteristics of particular markets that favour the carriers of other countries. Finally, the Task Force believes that it is important that Canada maintain a competitive Canadian airline industry. Government policy cannot ensure competitive success for Canadian carriers but should support the efforts of carriers to achieve it. These considerations must be taken into account as we consider the balance to be struck in Canada's international air policy.

Vehicle for Review.

A small committee of three members, with a chairman.

Procedure for Review.

The committee may invite written and/or oral submissions from interested parties in the public, industry and government. It may also accept unsolicited submissions. No public hearings are to be held.