

Canada and the Member States being parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago, on the 7th day of December, 1944, together with the European Community;

**DESIRING** to promote an aviation system based on competition among airlines in the marketplace with minimum government interference and regulation;

**DESIRING** to promote their interests in respect of air transportation;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of efficient air transportation in promoting trade, tourism and investment;

**DESIRING** to enhance air services;

**DESIRING** to ensure the highest degree of safety and security in air transportation;

**DETERMINED** to obtain the potential benefits of regulatory cooperation and, to the extent practical, harmonisation of regulations and approaches;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the important potential benefits that may arise from competitive air services and viable air services industries;

**DESIRING** to foster a competitive air services environment, recognising that where there is not a level competitive playing field for airlines, potential benefits may not be realised;

**DESIRING** to make it possible for their airlines to have a fair and equal opportunity to provide the air services under this Agreement;

**DESIRING** to maximise benefits to passengers, shippers, airlines and airports and their employees, and others benefiting indirectly;

**AFFIRMING** the importance of protecting the environment in developing and implementing international aviation policy;

**NOTING** the importance of protecting consumers and encouraging an appropriate level of consumer protection associated with air services;

**NOTING** the importance of capital to the airline industry for the further development of air services;

**DESIRING** to conclude an agreement on air transport, supplementary to the said Convention,

**HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**