

AACO 50th AGM Resolution on Competition Issues in the Relations with the European Union

Recognizing that the Arab - EU air transport relations are the foundation for trade and movement between the two neighboring regions;

Advocating for the added value that competition brings to the market place and the positive impact of removing restrictions on air transport manifested in:

- lower prices and better service levels for the consumer;
- Increased activity, productivity, growth and job creation for the economy; and
- focus on providing the best services at the best prices by the airlines;

Reasserting that dialogue, consultations, and negotiations are the proper path in air transport relations between states;

Highlighting that unilateral air transport regulations need to:

1. Respect the sovereignty of other states and their legal and economic structures;
2. Not to be used as a pressure tool to invoke the interests and requests of one state on another;
3. Place the interests of passengers at the top of the priorities;
4. Not be used to develop protective measures designed to promote one party's competitive position at the expense of another party; and
5. Not become a source of disputes with other countries;

And in that regard, Referring to the European Commission's proposal for a regulation repealing EU regulation 868/2004 on safeguarding fair competition in air transport;

AACO 50th AGM,

- Calls upon the EU institutions to take the above five principles into consideration in their approach towards the revision of regulation 868/2004, and to look into the observations on the EC proposal that some Arab parties, including AACO, submitted to the European Commission and the EU Parliament; and
- Directs AACO to continue working with the relevant Arab parties in advocating the above principles to the EU institutions and to continue engaging with those EU institutions as needed.