

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM CONCERNING AIR SERVICES**

**Title of treaty**

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam concerning air services ('the Agreement').

Command Paper Number 8544.....

**Subject matter**

The existing UK/Viet Nam Air Services Agreement (ASA) was signed in 1994 and the commercial rights associated with that Agreement were extremely restrictive.

The new Agreement includes up-to-date provisions throughout, including on safety, security, state aid and the right for the UK to designate any EU airline. The associated commercial rights provide for a significant increase in capacity and operational flexibility for airlines of both sides.

**Ministerial responsibility**

The Secretary of State for Transport has responsibility for the policy of the Agreement and for implementing its provisions. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for policy relating to the UK's relations with Viet Nam.

**Policy considerations**

(i) General

The new Agreement replaces the previous Agreement signed in 1994 and puts in place a modern legal framework for the operation of air services.

(ii) Financial

There are no significant financial implications

(iii) Reservations and Declarations

None.

**Implementation**

No new legislation is required. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of receipt of the later of the two written notifications by which the parties shall notify each other through diplomatic channels of the completion of

respective internal and legal procedures required for entry into force of the Agreement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

**Simon Burns**  
**Minister of State for Transport**

**January 2013**