

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE CONCERNING AIR SERVICES

Title of treaty

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Ukraine concerning air services.

Command Paper Number..8546.....

Subject matter

The existing UK/Ukraine Air Services Agreement (ASA) entered into force in 1993. It remains highly restrictive and in need of modernisation.

This new Agreement significantly updates the 1993 arrangements throughout. It removes onerous and restrictive provisions on pricing and ensures conformity with EU law by inclusion of the UK's right to designate any EU airline.

The new Agreement also includes up-to-date provisions on safety standards. This is especially relevant as Ukraine's civil aviation safety standards have come under scrutiny. The EU has in the past imposed operating bans on certain Ukrainian airlines.

Commercially, the most significant part of the new arrangements, in an accompanying Memorandum of Understanding, is the increase in overall capacity that can be operated between the UK and Ukraine. This has provided new opportunities for services to develop and has enabled no-frills carriers to enter the market.

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 Ukraine.

Policy considerations

(i) General

The Agreement updates the highly restrictive 1993 Agreement. It allows greater freedoms for airlines of both countries to operate air services.

(ii) Financial

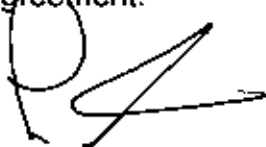
There are no significant financial implications

(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, appearing to be 'S. Burns', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Simon Burns
Minister of State for Transport

January 2013