

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

## Title of Treaty

Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Air Services

Command Paper Number: 9434

## Subject matter

The purpose of the Air Services Agreement (ASA) is to provide a legal framework for scheduled air services between the UK and the UAE. The new ASA replaces the ASA of 2 June 2002. Whilst the commercial traffic rights associated with the previous ASA have remained unchanged, the new ASA includes important improvements to allow airlines to further enhance their services. These include the right to perform their own groundhandling services at UAE airports (in effect introducing competition in this area), enabling them to provide intermodal transport for passengers (and freight) and new articles that address the leasing of aircraft, codesharing, user charges and security.

## Ministerial responsibility

The Secretary of State has responsibility for the policy of the Agreement and the implementing provisions. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs has overall responsibility for policy relating to the UK's relations with the United Arab Emirates.

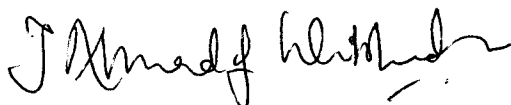
## Policy considerations

- (i) General:  
The new Agreement replaces the previous Agreement signed in 2002 and puts in place a more modern legal framework for the operation of air services.
- (ii) Financial:  
There are no financial implications
- (iii) Reservations and declarations:  
None.

## Implementation

No new legislation is required. The provisions of the new ASA have been applied on an administrative basis since February 2012. The ASA was signed on 21 October 2014 in Abu Dhabi by Tobias Ellwood, Parliamentary Under

Secretary of State Foreign & Commonwealth Office, and Dr Anwar Gargash, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs for the UAE, and will enter into force once constitutional formalities have been completed by each side. The new ASA shall enter 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 the entry into force of the Agreement.



Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon  
Transport Minister for Aviation, International Trade and Europe  
Department for Transport

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