

# EU/China Agreement: air services

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**PURPOSE:** to conclude the Agreement between the European Union and the Government of the People's Republic of China on certain aspects of air services.

**PROPOSED ACT:** Council Decision.

**ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:** Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

**BACKGROUND:** following the judgements of the Court of Justice in the so-called 'Open Skies' cases, on 5 June 2003 the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with third countries on the replacement of certain provisions in existing bilateral air services agreements with an agreement at Union level (horizontal authorisation).

The objectives of such agreements are to give all EU air carriers non-discriminatory access to routes between the European Union and third countries, and hence to bring bilateral air services agreements between Member States and third countries in line with Union law.

**CONTENT:** in accordance with the mechanisms and directives in the Annex to the 'horizontal authorisation', **the Commission has negotiated an Agreement with the People's Republic of China that replaces certain provisions in the existing bilateral air services agreements between Member States and China.** The negotiations were successfully concluded and the agreement was initialled on 8 December 2017.

The purpose of the Agreement is to bring the existing bilateral air services agreements between 27 Member States and the People's Republic of China into conformity with EU law. The negotiations were successfully concluded by the initialling of the Agreement on 8 December 2017.

The objective of the Agreement is to bring bilateral air services agreements between 27 Member States and the People's Republic of China in line with Union law

- Article 2 of the Agreement replaces the traditional designation clauses with an EU designation clause, permitting all EU carriers to benefit from the right of establishment.
- Article 4 resolves potential conflicts with the competition rules of the Union.

With this proposal for a Decision, the Council is invited to approve on behalf of the Union the Agreement between the European Union and China on certain aspects of air services.