

EC/USA Air Transport Agreement: accession of Croatia to the EU

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PURPOSE: to conclude a Protocol amending the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and the European Community and its Member States to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union.

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: in accordance with Article 6(2) of the Act of Accession of Croatia, Croatia has undertaken to accede to the agreements concluded or signed by the Union and the Member States with third countries. Among those agreements is the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and the European Community and its Member States (the EU-US ATA).

This Agreement was the first comprehensive air transport agreement with a key aviation partner of the Union. It is the most important air transport agreement in the world, providing more than 80 million seats per year, and as such a cornerstone of the Union's external aviation policy.

The Protocol amending the Agreement will enable Croatia to benefit from the EU-US ATA.

It is now necessary to approve the Protocol.

CONTENT: the Commission seeks to approve, on behalf of the Union, the Protocol amending the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and the European Community and its Member States signed on April 25 and 30, 2007 as amended by the Protocol to amend the Air Transport Agreement between the United States of America and the European Community and its Member States, signed on April 25 and 30, 2007, signed by the United States of America and the European Union and its Member States on 24 June 2010, to take account of the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Croatia.