

Invitation letter from the ICAO Secretary General to States and invited international organizations
(State letter EC 2/16.4.27-06/10 dated 20 January 2006)

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Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite your Government/Organization to participate in an ICAO Global Symposium on Air Transport Liberalization to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 18 to 19 September 2006. This meeting will be hosted by the Department of Civil Aviation, Government of Dubai, and will take place in the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre. The tentative programme of the Symposium is attached.

This is the first such global event organized by ICAO following the fifth Worldwide Air Transport Conference (ATConf/5, 2003), which produced considerable guidance as well as a policy framework for liberalization. The purpose of the meeting is to build on the outcome of ATConf/5 and to provide a forum for sharing liberalization experiences; exchanging information and views on trends and their impacts; and learning about different policy options and approaches to liberalization.

While the Symposium is primarily organized for government policy makers, air service agreement negotiators and aviation regulators, it will also be open to participation by the aviation industry, as well as other parties interested in air transport regulatory policy (such as financiers, consultants, academics). Invited prominent speakers and panelists will lead the discussion on pressing, topical and future issues in international air transport regulation, with ample time reserved for interaction with the audience.

Through such a forum, participants can learn from each other the successes and lessons in the liberalization process; understand better the various aspects of liberalization, including issues seen from the perspectives of different States and regions, the regulators and the regulated; and gain valuable insight to the pros and cons of different regulatory approaches. This can be particularly useful for government decision makers for the development of a well-informed, more coherent and balanced policy for the benefit of all stakeholders in international air transport.

In addition, the Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for participants to meet and network with their counterparts, not only from among the delegates of the ICAO meeting but also with aviation industry executives attending the 12th World Route Development Forum (Routes), a gathering of ~~airlines and airports~~ which takes place along side with the ICAO Symposium. This Routes event (17-19 September) is expected to be attended by airline route planners and airport senior representatives from some 120 countries (more information about the Routes conference may be found at its website: www.routesonline.com).

This Symposium will be run on a cost-recovery basis, and English will be the working language. Thanks to the generous support of our host, the Dubai Department of Civil Aviation, delegates nominated by the States and invited international organizations will not be charged for their participation. All other participants will pay a moderate fee of U.S.\$200 per person, which will cover the cost of attendance and documentation of the meeting proceedings.

Details of the meeting venue and other related information (including registration procedures, visa requirements, hotels and rates) will be provided separately in the meeting Bulletin, which will also be published on the Symposium website at: www.icao.int/dubai2006.

I should be grateful if you would indicate and/or confirm to me before 30 June 2006, whether your Government/Organization wishes to participate in this Symposium, and if so, names of the officials who will be attending and their positions. Please encourage your nominated officials to check the meeting website from time to time for updated information.

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ATTACHMENT

ICAO GLOBAL SYMPOSIUM ON AIR TRANSPORT LIBERALIZATION

(Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 18-19 September 2006)

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Day 1 (Monday) 0900 to 1700

0900 – 0940 — Opening Formalities

- Welcoming addresses by Host government and ICAO Representative
- Introduction of Chairman and moderators

1000 – 1230 — Session 1: Taking stock of liberalization

- Overview of liberalization progress: successes, difficulties, problems and issues
- Emerging trends and challenges: the changes in the industry (e.g. cross-border mergers, emergence of low cost carriers, their implications and impact) and regulatory responses (e.g. ensuring participation and sustainability, liberalizing airline ownership and control)

1400 – 1700 — Session 2: Regional liberalization and its implications

- Regional liberalization initiatives (status, benefits and challenges)
- Bloc negotiations: advantages and weaknesses, the process and implications (for internal and external parties); responding to the bloc negotiating challenges (e.g. European Commission's new negotiating mandates)
- Implications of the EU-US agreement for a transatlantic aviation area (e.g. for non-parties)

Day 2 (Tuesday) 0900 to 1700

0900 – 1200 — Session 3: Ensuring safety and security in a changing environment

- Implications of economic liberalization on safety and security regulation
- Strategies for ensuring safety oversight in a fast-changing environment
- Experience of States and regions in tackling the challenges in safety and security regulation (including cooperative arrangements and funding solutions)

1330 – 1630 — Session 4: Harnessing liberalization for broader benefits

- Ensuring responsive infrastructure for traffic growth and larger aircraft
- Liberalization for tourism and economic development
- Where will increasing regionalism lead to (fortresses or a global multilateral)?
- Building the future through cooperation: between/amongst States and regions (big and small, rich and poor); governments and the industry; airlines, airports and other partners in the aviation supply chain; aviation, tourism and local communities

1630 – 1700 — Closing session

- Chairman's summary on the Symposium discussions

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