

AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

OF THE BAHAMAS

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PREAMBLE

The Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the Bahamas, hereinafter referred to as 'the Contracting Parties', being Parties to the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago on the 7th of December 1944;

Desiring to organize, in a safe and orderly manner, international air services and to promote in the greatest possible measure international cooperation in respect of such services; and

Desiring to establish an Agreement to foster the development of (scheduled) air services between and beyond their territories,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of the present Agreement:

a) The term 'aeronautical authorities' means, in the case of the Austrian Federal Government the Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology and in the case of the Government of the Bahamas the Civil Aviation Authority Bahamas or, in both cases, any person or body authorized to perform any functions at present exercised by the said authorities or similar functions;

b) The term 'agreed services' means scheduled international air services on the route(s) specified in the Annex to this Agreement for the transport of passengers, baggage, cargo and mail;

c) The terms 'air service', 'international air service', 'airline', and 'stop for non-traffic purposes', have the meanings assigned to them in Article 96 of the Convention;

d) The term 'Annex' means the Annex to this Agreement as amended. The Annex forms an integral part of the Agreement and all references to the Agreement shall include reference to the Annex except where otherwise provided.

e) The term 'capacity' in relation to agreed services means the available payload of the aircraft used on such services, multiplied by the frequency operated by such aircraft over a given period on a route or section of a route.

f) The term 'Convention' means the Convention on International Civil Aviation opened for signature at Chicago on the seventh day of December 1944, including any Annex adopted under Article 90 of that Convention and any amendment of the Annexes or Convention under Articles 90 and 94 (a) thereof, so far as those Annexes and amendments are applicable for both Contracting Parties;

g) The term 'designated airline' means any airline, which has been designated and authorised in accordance with Article 3 of the present Agreement;

h) The term 'intermodal transport' means the public carriage by aircraft and by one or more surface modes of transport of passengers, baggage, cargo and mail, separately or in combination, for remuneration or hire;

i) The term 'price' means:

- (i) 'air fares' to be paid to air carriers or their agents or other ticket sellers for the carriage of passengers and baggage on air services and any conditions under which those prices apply, including remuneration and conditions offered to agency and other auxiliary services; and

- (ii) 'air rates' to be paid for the carriage of mail and cargo and the conditions under which those prices apply, including remuneration and conditions offered to agency and other auxiliary services.

This definition covers, where applicable, the surface transport in connection with international air transport, and the conditions to which their application is subject.

j) The term 'self-handling' means a situation in which the airport user directly provides for himself one or more categories of ground handling services and concludes no contract of any description with a third party for the provision of such services; for the purpose of this definition, among themselves airport users shall not be deemed to be third parties where:

- (i) one holds the majority in the other, or
- (ii) a single body has a majority holding in each.

k) The term 'specified route' means a route specified in the Annex to this Agreement.

l) The term 'state subsidy or support' means the provision of support on a discriminatory basis to a designated airline, directly or indirectly, by the state or by a public or private body designated or controlled by the state. Without limitation, it may include the setting-off of operational losses; the provision of capital, non-refundable grants or loans on privileged terms; the granting of financial advantages by forgoing profits or the recovery of sums due; the forgoing of a normal return on public funds used; tax exemptions; compensation for financial burdens imposed by the public authorities; or discriminatory access to airport facilities, fuels or other reasonable facilities necessary for the normal operation of air services.

m) The term 'territory' has the meaning assigned to it in Article 2 of the Convention;

n) The term 'user charges' means a charge imposed on air carriers for the provision of airport infrastructure, airport environmental, air navigation, or aviation security facilities or services including related services and facilities.

o) References in this Agreement to nationals of the Republic of Austria shall be understood as referring to nationals of European Union Member States.

p) References in this Agreement to airlines of the Republic of Austria shall be understood as referring to airlines designated by the Republic of Austria.

q) References in this Agreement to the 'EU Treaties' shall be understood as referring to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

r) References in this Agreement to the 'European Free Trade Association' shall be understood as referring to its Member States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

ARTICLE 2

GRANT OF RIGHTS

1. Each Contracting Party grants to the other Contracting Party the rights specified in this Agreement for the purpose of operating scheduled international air services on the routes specified in the Annex to this Agreement.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Agreement the airlines designated by each Contracting Party shall enjoy, while operating the agreed services on the specified routes, the following rights:

(a) The right to fly across its territory without landing ("first freedom" rights), and

(b) The right to make stops in its territory for non-traffic purposes (“second freedom” rights).

(c) The right to make stops in the territory of the other Contracting Party at the points specified in the Annex for the purpose of taking on board and disembarking passengers, baggage, cargo including mail, separately or in combination destined for or coming from point(s) in the territory of the first Contracting Party (“third and fourth freedom” rights).

3. The grant of traffic rights pursuant to paragraph (2) above does not include the grant of the right to carry passengers, baggage, cargo and mail between points in the territory of the Contracting Party granting the rights and points in the territory of a third country or vice versa (“fifth freedom” rights). Fifth freedom traffic rights shall be granted only on the basis of the approval of the aeronautical authorities of both Contracting Parties as per the Annex.

4. Nothing in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to confer on the airlines designated by one Contracting Party the privilege of taking on board, in the territory of the other Contracting Party, passengers, baggage and cargo including mail for remuneration or hire and destined for another point in the territory of that other Contracting Party (‘cabotage’).

ARTICLE 3

DESIGNATION AND REVOCATION

1. Each Contracting Party shall have the right to designate in writing to the other Contracting Party an airline or airlines for the purpose of operating the agreed services on the specified routes and to withdraw the designation of any airline or to substitute another airline for one previously designated.

2. Such designation shall be effected by virtue of written notification between the aeronautical authorities of both Contracting Parties via diplomatic channels.

3. The aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party may require the airline designated by the other Contracting Party to prove that it is qualified to fulfill the conditions prescribed under the laws and regulations applied to the operation of international air services by the said authorities in conformity with the provisions of the Convention.

4. On receipt of such a designation the other Contracting Party shall grant the appropriate authorisations and permissions with minimum procedural delay, provided:

(a) In the case of an airline designated by the Republic of Austria:

- (i)** it is established in the territory of the Republic of Austria under the EU Treaties and has a valid Operating Licence in accordance with European Union law; and
- (ii)** effective regulatory control of the airline is exercised and maintained by the European Union Member State responsible for issuing its Air Operator's Certificate and the relevant aeronautical authority is clearly identified in the designation; and
- (iii)** the airline is owned directly or through majority ownership and it is effectively controlled by Member States of the European Union or States of the European Free Trade Association and/or by nationals of such states.

(b) In the case of an airline designated by the Bahamas:

- (i) it is established in the territory of the Bahamas and has a valid Operating Licence in accordance with the applicable law of the Bahamas; and
- (ii) The Bahamas exercise and maintain effective regulatory control of the airline and are responsible for issuing its Air Operator's Certificate; and
- (iii) the airline is owned directly or through majority ownership and it is effectively controlled by the Bahamas and/or by its nationals.

5. Either Contracting Party may revoke, suspend or limit the operating authorisation or technical permissions of an airline designated by the other Contracting Party where:

(a) In the case of an airline designated by the Republic of Austria:

- (i) it is not established in the territory of the Republic of Austria under the EU Treaties or does not have a valid Operating Licence in accordance with European Union law; or
- (ii) effective regulatory control of the airline is not exercised or not maintained by the European Union Member State responsible for issuing its Air Operator's Certificate, or the relevant aeronautical authority is not clearly identified in the designation; or
- (iii) the airline is not owned, directly or through majority ownership, or it is not effectively controlled by Member States of the European Union or the European Free Trade Association and/or by nationals of such States.

(b) In the case of an airline designated by the Bahamas:

- (i) it is not established in the territory of the Bahamas or does not have a valid Operating Licence in accordance with the applicable law of the Bahamas; or
- (ii) effective regulatory control of the airline is not exercised or not maintained by the Bahamas or the Bahamas are not responsible for issuing its Air Operator's Certificate; or
- (iii) the airline is not owned directly or through majority ownership or it is not effectively controlled by the Bahamas and/or by its nationals.

6. When an airline has been so designated and authorized in accordance with this Article, it may at any time begin to operate the agreed services, in accordance with the provisions of the present Agreement.

7. Unless immediate action is essential to prevent infringement of the laws and regulations referred to above or unless fair competition, safety or security requires action in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 (Capacity and Fair Competition), 13 (Safety) or 14 (Security), the rights enumerated in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be exercised only after consultations between the aeronautical authorities in conformity with Article 18 (Consultations) of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4

APPLICABILITY OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS

1. The laws and regulations of one Contracting Party shall apply to the navigation and operation of the aircraft of the airlines designated by the other Contracting Party during entry into, flying over, stay in and departure from the territory of the first Contracting Party.

2. The laws and regulations of one Contracting Party governing entry into, stay in and departure from its territory of passengers, crew, cargo or mail such as formalities regarding entry, exit, emigration, immigration, customs, health and quarantine shall apply to passengers, crew, cargo and mail carried by aircraft of the airlines designated by the other Contracting Party whilst they are within the said territory.

3. Each Contracting Party shall allow the other Contracting Party to implement measures (e.g. the deployments of document specialists) on its territory in order to ensure that only passengers with valid travel documents which are required for the entry in or transit through the territory of the other Contracting Party are carried.

4. Each Contracting Party shall, upon request, supply to the other Contracting Party copies of the relevant laws and regulations referred to in this Article.

ARTICLE 5

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS AND OTHER DUTIES

1. Aircraft operated on international services by the airline(s) designated by each Contracting Party, as well as their regular equipment, supplies of fuel and lubricants and the aircraft stores (including food, beverages and tobacco) on board such aircraft shall be exempt from all customs duties, inspection fees and other duties or taxes on arriving in the territory of the other Contracting Party, provided such equipment and supplies remain on board the aircraft up to such time as they are re-exported.

2. In addition, the following shall also be exempt from the same duties and taxes with the exception of charges corresponding to the service performed:

- (a)** aircraft stores taken on board in the territory of either Contracting Party, within limits fixed by the appropriate authorities of said Contracting Party,

and for use on board the aircraft engaged on a specified route of the other Contracting Party;

- (b) spare parts entered into the territory of either Contracting Party for the maintenance or repair of aircraft used on a specified route by the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party;
- (c) fuel and lubricants destined to supply aircraft operated on a specified route by the designated airline(s) of the other Contracting Party, even if these supplies are to be used on the part of the journey performed over the territory of the Contracting Party in which they are taken on board.

Materials referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this paragraph may be required to be kept under customs supervision or control.

3. The regular airborne equipment, as well as the materials and supplies retained on board the aircraft of either Contracting Party may be unloaded in the territory of the other Contracting Party only with the approval of the customs authorities of that Contracting Party. In such case, they may be placed under the supervision of the said authorities up to such time as they are re-exported or otherwise disposed of in accordance with customs regulations.

ARTICLE 6

TAXATION

1. Profits from the operation of aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the territory of the Contracting Party in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. Capital represented by aircraft operated in international traffic and by movable property pertaining to the operation of such aircraft shall be taxable only in the territory of the Contracting Party in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

3. Where a special Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes on income and on capital exists between the Contracting Parties, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

ARTICLE 7 USER CHARGES

1. Each Party shall ensure that user charges that may be imposed by its competent charging authorities or bodies on the air carriers of the other Party for the use of air navigation and air traffic control, airport infrastructure, aviation security and related facilities and services shall be just, reasonable, not unjustly discriminatory, and equitably apportioned among categories of users. These charges may reflect, but shall not exceed, the full cost to the competent charging authorities or bodies of providing the appropriate airport and aviation security facilities and services at that airport or within that airport's system. These charges may include a reasonable return on assets, after depreciation. Facilities and services for which user charges are made shall be provided on an efficient and economic basis. In any event, these charges shall be assessed on the air carriers of the other Party on terms not less favourable than the most favourable terms available to any other air carrier at the time the charges are assessed.

2. Each Party shall encourage consultations between the competent charging authorities or bodies in its territory and the air carriers and/or their representative bodies using the services and facilities, and shall encourage that the competent charging authorities or bodies and the air carriers or their representative bodies exchange such information as may be necessary to permit an accurate review of the reasonableness of

the charges in accordance with the principles of paragraphs (1) and 2 of this Article. Each Party shall ensure that the competent charging authorities or bodies provide users with reasonable notice of any proposal for changes in user charges to enable those authorities to consider the views expressed by the users before changes are made.

3. Neither Party shall be held, in dispute resolution procedures pursuant to Article 20 (Settlement of Disputes) of this Agreement, to be in breach of a provision of this Article, unless:

- (a) it fails to undertake a review of the charge or practice that is the subject of complaint by the other Party within a reasonable amount of time; or
- (b) following such a review it fails to take all steps within its power to remedy any charge or practice that is inconsistent with this Article.

ARTICLE 8

TRAFFIC IN DIRECT TRANSIT

Passengers, baggage and cargo including mail in direct transit across the territory of either Contracting Party and not leaving the area of the airport reserved for such purpose shall be exempt from custom duties, charges and other similar taxes.

ARTICLE 9

RECOGNITION OF CERTIFICATES AND LICENCES

1. Certificates of airworthiness, certificates of competency and licences issued or validated in accordance with the laws and regulations of one Contracting Party, including, in the case of the Republic of Austria, European Union laws and regulations, and unexpired shall be recognised as valid by the other Contracting Party for the purpose of operating the agreed services, provided always that such certificates or

licences were issued or validated, equal or above the minimum standards established under the Chicago Convention.

2. Paragraph 1) also applies with respect to an airline designated by the Republic of Austria whose regulatory control is exercised and maintained by another European Union Member State.

3. Each Contracting Party, however, reserves the right to refuse to recognize, for flights above its own territory, certificates of competency and licences granted or validated to its own nationals by the other Contracting Party or by any other State.

ARTICLE 10 PRICING

1. Each Contracting Party shall allow prices for scheduled air services to be established by each airline based upon commercial considerations in the marketplace. Intervention by the Parties shall be limited to:

- (a)** prevention of unreasonably discriminatory prices or practices;
- (b)** protection of consumers from prices that are unreasonably high or restrictive due to the abuse of a dominant position or to concerted practices among air carriers; and
- (c)** protection of designated airlines from prices that are artificially low due to direct or indirect governmental subsidy or support.

2. Prices for scheduled international air services between the territories of the Contracting Parties shall not be required to be filed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the airlines of the Contracting Parties shall continue to provide immediate access, on request, to information

on historical, existing, and proposed prices to the aeronautical authorities of the Contracting Parties in a manner and format acceptable to those aeronautical authorities.

ARTICLE 11 COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. Air carrier representation

The airlines designated by each Contracting Party shall be allowed:

- (a)** To establish in the territory of the other Contracting Party offices for the promotion of air transportation and sale of air tickets as well as, in accordance with the legislation of such other Contracting Party, other facilities required for the provision of air transportation;
- (b)** To bring in and maintain in the territory of the other Contracting Party, in accordance with the legislation of such other Contracting Party relating to entry, residence and employment, managerial, sales, technical, operational and other specialist staff required for the provision of air transportation.
- (c)** These staff requirements may, at the option of the designated airlines, be satisfied by their own personnel of any nationality or by using the services of any other organisation, company or airline operating in the territory of the other Contracting Party and authorised to perform such services in the territory of that Contracting Party.
- (d)** The representatives and staff shall be subject to the laws and regulations in force of the other Contracting Party. Consistent with such law and regulations, each Contracting Party shall grant the necessary work permits, national employment visas, residence permits or other similar documents, if

applicable, as soon as possible to the representatives and staff referred to in paragraph 1 of this article, if all conditions are met.

- (e) The competent authorities of each Contracting Party will take all necessary steps to ensure that the representation of the airlines designated by the other Contracting Party may exercise their activities in an orderly manner.

2. Sales, Conversion and transfer of funds and revenues

- (a) Any designated air carrier of each Party may engage in the sale of air transportation and related services in the territory of the other Party directly and/or, at the air carrier's discretion, through its sales agents, other intermediaries appointed by the air carrier, through another air carrier or through the internet. Each air carrier shall have the right to sell such transportation and related services, and any person shall be free to purchase such transportation and services, in the currency of that territory or in freely convertible currencies in accordance with the local currency legislation.
- (b) Each air carrier shall have the right to convert into freely convertible currencies and remit local revenues from the territory of the other Party to its home territory or to the country or countries of its choice according to the applicable legislation. Conversion and remittance shall be permitted promptly without restrictions or taxation in respect thereof at the official rate of exchange applicable to current transactions and remittance on the date the carrier makes the initial application for remittance.
- (c) The air carriers of each Party shall be permitted to pay for local expenses, including airport charges and purchases of fuel, in the territory of the other Party in national currency. At their discretion, the designated air carriers of each Party may pay for such expenses in the territory of the other Party in freely convertible currencies in accordance with local currency legislation.

3. Ground Handling

Subject to laws and regulations of each Contracting Party including, in the case of Austria, European Union law, each designated airline shall have in the territory of the other Contracting Party the right to select among competing suppliers that provide ground handling services in whole or in part or, at its option, the right to perform its own ground handling ("self-handling"). Where such laws and regulations limit or preclude self-handling and where there is no effective competition between suppliers that provide ground handling services, each designated airline shall be treated on a non-discriminatory basis as regards their access to self-handling and ground handling services provided by a supplier or suppliers.

4. Leasing

The designated airlines of each Contracting Party shall have the right to perform the agreed services on the specified routes using aircraft (or aircraft and crew) leased from any company, including other airlines, subject to being authorized to use the aircraft (or aircraft and crew) on such basis by the Aeronautical Authorities of both Contracting Parties. In the case of the Republic of Austria, no limitations to wet lease shall apply provided that under the wet lease agreement lessor and lessee are EU air carriers where a) one holds the majority in the other, or b) a single body has a majority holding in each.

5. Code Share

In operating or holding out services under this Agreement, any air carrier of a Party may enter into cooperative marketing arrangements, such as code-sharing arrangements with:

- (a) any designated air carrier or carriers of the Parties; and
- (b) any designated air carrier or carriers of a third country; and
- (c) any surface (land or maritime) transport provider;

provided that (i) all carriers involved hold the appropriate authority and (ii) the arrangements meet the requirements relating to safety and competition normally applied to such arrangements. In respect of passenger transport sold involving codeshares, the purchaser shall be informed at the point of sale, or in any case before boarding, which transport providers will operate each sector of the service.

6. Intermodal transport

Subject to the laws and regulations of each Contracting Party, the designated airlines of each Contracting Party shall be permitted to employ, in connection with air transport, any intermodal transport to or from any points in the territories of the Contracting Parties or third countries. Airlines may elect to perform their own intermodal transport or to provide it through arrangements, including code share, with other modes of transport. Such intermodal services may be offered as a through service and at a single price for the air and intermodal transport combined, provided that passengers and shippers are informed as to the providers of the transport involved.

7. Servicing, Maintenance, or Repair of aircraft

Each designated air carrier shall have the right to provide its own servicing, maintenance, or repair of aircraft in the territory of the other Contracting Party or otherwise to contract these services out, in full or in part, at its option, with any of the suppliers authorized for the provision of such services and licensed at the given airports. Servicing and defect rectification can also be performed for airlines where a) one holds the majority in the other, or b) a single body has a majority holding in each.

ARTICLE 12 CAPACITY AND FAIR COMPETITION

1. Each Contracting Party shall allow fair and equal opportunity for the designated airlines of both Contracting Parties to compete in providing the international air transport governed by this Agreement.
2. Each Contracting Party shall allow each designated airline to determine the frequency and capacity of the international air transport it offers based upon commercial considerations in the marketplace. Consistent with this right, neither Contracting Party shall unilaterally limit the volume of traffic, frequency or regularity of service, or the aircraft type or types operated by the airlines designated by the other Contracting Party, except as may be required for customs, technical, operational or environmental reasons under uniform conditions consistent with Article 15 of the Convention.
3. Airlines designated by a Contracting Party may be required to submit their flight schedules for approval to the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party at least thirty (30) days before the proposed date of their introduction. The same procedure shall apply to any modification thereof. In special cases this time limit may be reduced subject to the consent of the said authorities.
4. Neither Contracting Party shall allow its designated airline or airlines, either in conjunction with any other airline or airlines or separately, to abuse market power in a way which has or is likely or intended to have the effect of severely weakening a competitor or excluding a competitor from a route.
5. Neither Contracting Party shall provide or permit state subsidy or support for or to its designated airline or airlines in such way that would adversely affect the fair and equal opportunity of the airlines of the other Contracting Party to compete in providing international air transportation.

6. Where a Contracting Party provides state subsidy or support to a designated airline in respect of services operated under this Agreement, it shall require that airline to identify the subsidy or support clearly and separately in its accounts.

7. If one Contracting Party has substantiated concerns that its designated airlines are being subjected to discrimination or unfair practices, or that a subsidy or support being considered or provided by the other Contracting Party would adversely affect or is adversely affecting the fair and equal opportunity of the airlines of the first Contracting Party to compete in providing international air transportation, the aeronautical authorities of that Contracting Party may request immediate consultations with the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party. Such consultations shall start within thirty (30) days of receipt of such a request from either Contracting Party. Failure to reach a satisfactory agreement within thirty (30) days from the start of such consultations shall constitute grounds to suspend the exercise of the rights specified in Article 2 (Grant of Rights) of the present agreement by the airline designated by the other Contracting Party, or to revoke the operating authorization, or to impose such conditions as it may deem necessary on the exercise of these rights.

ARTICLE 13

SAFETY

1. Each Contracting Party may request consultations at any time concerning safety standards in any area relating to aircrew, aircraft or their operation adopted by the other Contracting Party. Such consultations shall take place within thirty (30) days of that request.

2. If, following such consultations, one Contracting Party finds that the other Contracting Party does not effectively maintain and administer safety standards in any such area that are at least equal to the minimum standards established at that time pursuant to the Convention, the first Contracting Party shall notify the other

Contracting Party of those findings and the steps considered necessary to conform with those minimum standards, and that other Contracting Party shall take appropriate corrective action. Failure by the other Contracting Party to take appropriate action within fifteen (15) days or such longer period as may be agreed, shall be grounds for the application of paragraph (5) of Article 3 (Designation and Revocation) of this Agreement.

3. Notwithstanding the obligations mentioned in Article 33 of the Convention it is agreed that any aircraft operated by the designated airlines of one Contracting Party on services to or from the territory of the other Contracting Party may, while within the territory of the other Contracting Party, be made the subject of an examination by the authorized representatives of the other Contracting Party, on board and around the aircraft to check both the validity of the aircraft documents and those of its crew and the apparent condition of the aircraft and its equipment (in this Article called 'ramp inspection'), provided this does not lead to unreasonable delay.

4. If any such ramp inspection or series of ramp inspections gives rise to:

(a) serious concerns that an aircraft or the operation of an aircraft does not comply with the minimum standards established at that time pursuant to the Convention, or

(b) serious concerns that there is a lack of effective maintenance and administration of safety standards established at that time pursuant to the Convention,

the Contracting Party carrying out the inspection shall, for the purposes of Article 33 of the Convention, be free to conclude that the requirements under which the certificate or licences in respect of that aircraft or in respect of the crew of that aircraft had been issued or rendered valid, or that the requirements under which that aircraft

is operated, are not equal to or above the minimum standards established pursuant to the Convention.

5. In the event that access for the purpose of undertaking a ramp inspection of an aircraft operated by or on behalf of the airline or airlines of one Contracting Party in accordance with paragraph (3) of this Article is denied by a representative of that airline or airlines, the other Contracting Party shall be free to infer that serious concerns of the type referred to in paragraph (4) of this Article arise and draw the conclusions referred in that paragraph.

6. Each Contracting Party reserves the right to suspend or vary the operating authorization of an airline or airlines of the other Contracting Party immediately in the event the first Contracting Party concludes, whether as a result of a ramp inspection, a series of ramp inspections, a denial of access for ramp inspection, consultation or otherwise, that immediate action is essential to the safety of the airline operation.

7. Any action by one Contracting Party in accordance with paragraphs (2) or (6) above shall be discontinued once the basis for the taking of that action ceases to exist.

8. Where the Republic of Austria has designated an airline whose regulatory control is exercised and maintained by an European Union Member State, the rights of the other Contracting Party under this Article shall apply equally in respect of the adoption, exercise or maintenance of safety standards by that other European Union Member State and in respect of the operating authorisation of that airline.

ARTICLE 14

SECURITY

1. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, the Contracting Parties reaffirm that their obligation to each other to protect the security of civil aviation against acts of unlawful interference forms an integral part of this Agreement.

2. The Contracting Parties shall in particular act in conformity with the provisions of:

- (a)** The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on 14 September 1963;
- (b)** The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970;
- (c)** The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971;
- (d)** The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988;
- (e)** The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, signed at Montreal on 1 March 1991,

and any other multilateral agreement governing aviation security binding upon both Contracting Parties.

3. The Contracting Parties shall, in their mutual relations, act in conformity with the aviation security provisions established by the International Civil Aviation Organization and designated as Annexes to the Chicago Convention to the extent that such security provisions are applicable to the Contracting Parties; they shall require that operators of

aircraft of their registry or operators of aircraft which have their principal place of business or permanent residence in the territory of the Contracting Parties or, in the case of the Republic of Austria, operators of aircraft which are established in its territory under the EU Treaties and have valid Operating Licences in accordance with European Union law, and the operators of airports in their territory act in conformity with such aviation security provisions.

4. The Contracting Parties shall provide upon request all necessary assistance to each other to prevent acts of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft and other unlawful acts against the safety of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports and air navigation facilities, and any other threat to the security of civil aviation.

5. Each Contracting Party agrees that its operators of aircraft shall be required to observe, for departure from or while within the territory of the other Contracting Party, aviation security provisions in conformity with the law in force in the country, including, in the case of the Republic of Austria, European Union law.

6. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that adequate measures are effectively applied within its territory to protect the aircraft and to screen passengers, crew, carry-on items and to carry out appropriate security checks on baggage, cargo, mail and aircraft stores prior to and during boarding or loading.

7. Each Contracting Party shall also give sympathetic consideration to any request from the other Contracting Party for reasonable special security measures to meet a particular threat.

8. When an incident or threat of an incident of unlawful seizure of civil aircraft or other unlawful acts against the safety of such aircraft, their passengers and crew, airports or air navigation facilities occurs, the Contracting Parties shall assist each other by facilitating communications and other appropriate measures intended to terminate rapidly and safely such incident or threat thereof.

9. When a Contracting Party has reasonable grounds to believe that the other Contracting Party has departed from the aviation security provisions of this Article, the aeronautical authorities of that Contracting Party may request immediate consultations with the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party. Such consultations shall start within fifteen (15) days of receipt of such a request from either Contracting Party. Failure to reach a satisfactory agreement within fifteen (15) days of the date of such request shall constitute grounds for application of paragraph (5) of Article 3 of this Agreement (Designation and Revocation). If required by a serious emergency, either Contracting Party may take interim action prior to the expiry of a month period.

ARTICLE 15

SOCIAL ASPECTS

1. The Parties recognise the importance of considering the effects of this Agreement on labour, employment and working conditions. The Parties agree to cooperate on labour matters within the scope of this Agreement, inter alia in relation to impacts on employment, fundamental rights at work, working conditions, social protection and social dialogue.

2. The Parties shall through their laws, regulations and practices promote high levels of protection in the labour and social domain of the civil aviation sector.

3. The Parties recognise the importance of the benefits that arise when the significant economic gains from open and competitive markets are combined with high labour standards for workers. The Parties shall implement this Agreement in a manner that contributes to high labour standards and to ensure that the rights and principles contained in their respective laws and regulations are not undermined but effectively enforced.

4. The Parties reaffirm their commitment, in accordance with their obligations deriving from the membership of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 86th Session in 1998, to respect, promote and effectively implement and apply the Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work.

5. The Contracting Parties shall promote the objectives included in the ILO Decent Work Agenda and in the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008) as amended in 2022, as well as the ILO Conclusions and recommendations on the promotion of decent work to shape a green, sustainable and inclusive economic recovery for the civil aviation sector concluded during the ILO technical meeting held in Geneva in April 2023.

6. The Parties should promote equality of opportunity and treatment for all, especially women, including by ending gender biased practices, where they exist, and through policies that provide access for women to work and career progression in technical roles, accredited roles and leadership positions;

7. Each Party will make continued and sustained efforts towards ratifying, to the extent it has not yet done so, the fundamental ILO conventions.

ARTICLE 16 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. The Contracting Parties support the protection of the environment by promoting the sustainable development of aviation, and by effectively addressing the significant environmental impacts of aviation, including its greenhouse gas emissions, pollutant emissions, and noise. They commit to pursuing these goals through support for the development of effective global standards by ICAO, and through appropriate domestic measures, in line with their rights and obligations under international law.

2. The Contracting Parties confirm their commitment to the objective of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius or lower, compared to pre-industrial levels. They agree to contribute to the achievement of that objective by limiting the greenhouse gas and non CO₂ emissions associated with aviation.

3. The Contracting Parties confirm their support for and will strive to achieve the long-term aspirational goal of net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 decided at the 41st Session of the ICAO Assembly. They agreed to cooperate with each other in developing and implementing appropriate measures to achieve this goal.

4. The Contracting Parties recognize that addressing the climate impacts of aviation and pursuing its sustainable development require a range of measures including aircraft technology improvements, operational improvements, the uptake of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), and market-based measures. The Parties will notably participate in offsetting under ICAO's Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA).

5. The Contracting Parties commit to work together in support of environmental and sustainability measures at the level of ICAO. In particular they commit to implementing the Global Framework adopted by the 3rd ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) on 24 November 2023.

6. The Contracting Parties commit to develop measures which will promote and increase the use of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) in their respective territories. They agree to inform each other of the measures taken and related best practices. The Parties also agree to contribute to regional and international measures which aim to increase the availability and deployment of SAF.

7. The Contracting Parties agree to continue to engage and strengthen their cooperation on environmental action in aviation by exchanging information and engaging in regular dialogue.

8. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the authority of the competent authorities of a Contracting Party to take all appropriate measures to prevent or otherwise address the environmental impacts of air services, provided that such measures are fully consistent with their rights and obligations under international law including the Chicago convention and are applied without distinction as to nationality.

ARTICLE 17

PROVISION OF STATISTICS

The aeronautical authorities of one Contracting Party shall supply the aeronautical authorities of the other Contracting Party, at their request, with such statistics as may be reasonably required for information purposes subject to the laws and regulations of each Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 18

CONSULTATIONS

1. The aeronautical authorities of each Contracting Party shall consult each other from time to time, in order to ensure close cooperation concerning all the issues related to the interpretation and application of this Agreement, on request of either Contracting Party.

2. Such consultations shall begin within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of request of one Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 19

MODIFICATIONS

1. If either of the Contracting Parties considers it desirable to modify any provision of this Agreement, it may at any time request consultations with the other Contracting Party. Such consultations (which may be prepared by discussions between the aeronautical authorities), shall begin within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of the request, unless both Contracting Parties agree to an extension of this period.
2. Modifications so agreed upon shall be approved by each Contracting Party and shall enter into force on the first day of the second month, following the month on which the two Contracting Parties have notified each other by an exchange of diplomatic notes that the requirements for its entry into force under their respective legal procedures have been fulfilled.
3. Modifications to the Annex of this Agreement may be agreed directly between the aeronautical authorities of the Contracting Parties and enter into force when confirmed by an exchange of diplomatic notes.

ARTICLE 20

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

1. In a spirit of close co-operation the aeronautical authorities of either Contracting Party may at any time request consultations related to the implementation, interpretation, application and satisfactory compliance with the provisions of this Agreement or compliance with this Agreement. Such consultations shall begin within a period of sixty (60) days from the date of the receipt of such a request, unless otherwise agreed between the aeronautical authorities.

2. If any dispute arises between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation or application of this Agreement, except those that may arise under Article 13 (Safety), Article 14 (Security) or Article 12 (Fair Competition) the Aeronautical Authorities of the Contracting Parties shall in the first place endeavour to settle the dispute by consultations and negotiation.

3. If Aeronautical Authorities of the Contracting Parties fail to reach a settlement by negotiation within (60) sixty days, then the dispute should be referred for consultation using diplomatic channels.

4. Contracting Parties will seek to resolve and agree to use their best efforts to reach a settlement within (120) one hundred and twenty days.

5. If the Contracting Parties do not agree to resolution within (120) one hundred twenty days, they may agree to resolve the matter by another method.

ARTICLE 21 TERMINATION

1. Each Contracting Party may, at any time, give notice in writing through diplomatic channels to the other Contracting Party of its decision to terminate this Agreement. Such notice shall simultaneously be communicated to the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

2. In such the Agreement shall terminate twelve (12) months after the date of receipt of the notice by the other Contracting Party, unless the notice to terminate is withdrawn by mutual agreement before the expiry of this period. In the absence of acknowledgement of receipt by the other Contracting Party, notice shall be deemed to have been received fourteen (14) days after the receipt of the notice by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

ARTICLE 22 REGISTRATION

This Agreement and amendments there to shall be registered with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

ARTICLE 23 ENTRY INTO FORCE

This agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month that follows the month during which the two Contracting Parties have completed to notify each other by an exchange of diplomatic notes that the requirements for its entry into force under their respective legal procedures have been fulfilled.

In witness whereof the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Nassau on this 8 July 2025 in the German and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In the case of differences in interpretation of provisions of this Agreement the English text shall prevail.

Petra SCHNEEBAUER

Glenys Hanna MARTIN

**FOR THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

A N N E X

Section I:

- A. The airline(s) designated by the Republic of Austria shall be entitled to operate scheduled air services in both directions on routes specified hereafter:

Points of Origin:	Intermediate points:	Points of Destination:	Points beyond:
Points in Austria	Any points	Points in the Bahamas	Any points

- B. The airline(s) designated by the Commonwealth of The Bahamas shall be entitled to operate scheduled air services in both directions on routes specified hereafter:

Points of Origin:	Intermediate points:	Points of Destination:	Points beyond:
Points in the Bahamas	Any points	Points in Austria	Any points

Section II:

Any intermediate points and points beyond may be served by the designated airline(s) of each Contracting Party without exercising Fifth Freedom traffic rights.

The exercise of Fifth Freedom traffic rights may be agreed upon by the aeronautical authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

Section III:

Air carriers of both Parties may on any or all flights and at their option:

- (a) operate flights in either or both directions;
- (b) combine different flight numbers within one aircraft operation;

- (c) serve intermediate and beyond points, as specified in paragraph 1 of this Annex, and points in the territories of the Parties in any combination and in any order in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 (paragraph 4), which excludes Cabotage rights;
- (d) omit stops at any point or points;
- (e) transfer traffic from any of its aircraft to any of its other aircraft at any point;
- (f) make stopovers at any points whether within or outside the territory of either Party;
- (g) carry transit traffic through the other Party's territory; and
- (h) combine traffic on the same aircraft regardless of where such traffic originates.