

**EUROPEAN AIR LAW
ASSOCIATION**

**15TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

BRUSSELS

**RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
EUROPEAN AIR TRANSPORT
LAW AND POLICY**

**THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2003
THE CONRAD HOTEL, BRUSSELS**

EUROPEAN AIR LAW ASSOCIATION

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WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESSES FROM

COMMISSIONER LOYOLA DE PALACIO AND COMMISSIONER MARIO MONTI

2003 has been a challenging year for many airlines. In the first quarter, the industry was caught in what seemed to be a perfect storm with the advent of the Iraqi war, SARS and the continuing economic downturn. The concurrence of these three events exacerbated the already difficult market circumstances that followed the horrific events of 11 September 2001.

However, the airlines have fought back and have started to make fundamental changes to ensure their survival and assure their competitiveness in the market once the economy picks up.

They have been grappling with fundamental questions such as the viability of the hub and spoke network model, the role of alliances, the appropriate response to the pressure of low cost airlines, issues relating to the distribution model such as the use of travel agents, internet distribution etc. Changes have been – and are being – made to bring the existing business model in line with the realities of this new environment.

2003 has also seen fundamental changes to the regulatory framework. Following the Open Skies judgments of the European Court of Justice, the Commission received a mandate in June of this year to negotiate an Open Aviation Area with the US and to reach agreement with other third countries to amend the nationality provision contained in their bilaterals with individual Member States. Although the conclusion of an EU/US aviation agreement is still some time away, the importance of these negotiations cannot be underestimated. If successful, they will allow the much-needed consolidation to take place in the industry. Other regulatory issues such as denied boarding and other passenger rights issues also remained high on the Commission's agenda.

The Association's annual conference 2003, which returns to Brussels after more than ten years, will deal with all these issues. Brussels is the ideal location to hold this conference not only given the impact of these recent developments on the European aviation industry, but also taking into account the ascendance of the EU as a central player on the world aviation stage.

The Association is grateful to Ant. N. Sakkoulas Publishers, Athens (who publish the books of the Association's conferences) for their generous assistance in printing these programmes for the Association without charge.

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2003

DELEGATES DINNER

19:00

Cocktail Reception and Dinner

Kolya, Chaussée de Charleroi 106, B-1060 Brussels

All Conference Delegates

Dinner Address

Andrew Cahn, Director of Government and Industry Affairs, British Airways

THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2003

CONFERENCE

- 08:00 – 09:00 Registration
- 08:45 – 09:00 EALA General Meeting
EALA Members only
- 09:00 – 09:15 Opening Address
Professor P. D. Dagtoglou, President of the Association
- 09:15 – 09:45 Keynote Address
Commissioner Mario Monti, Competition Commissioner, European Commission
- 09:45 – 11:15 **Competition – Current Issues (pricing, distribution)**
Moderator: Gerwin Van Gerven, Partner, Linklaters, Brussels
Panellists: Christine Tomboy, DG Competition, European Commission
John Kallaughar, Partner, Latham & Watkins, London
Robert Donald, General Counsel, IATA
- 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee/tea
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Recent Developments in Airline Regulation (slots, financial protection of passengers' money, passenger rights)**
Moderator: Richard Venables, Partner, Lane & Partners, London
Panellists: Olga Koumartsioti, DG Energy and Transport, European Commission
Richard Churchill-Coleman, General Counsel, TUI
Jim Callaghan, Company Secretary, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Ryanair
Tim Bye, Company Secretary, Legal Director, bmi British Midland
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 14:30 Keynote Address
Commissioner Loyola de Palacio, Vice President European Commission, Energy and Transport Commissioner
- 14:30 – 16:00 **The Aftermath of the ECJ Open Skies Judgments – impact on the regulatory environment**
Moderator: Dr. Pablo Mendes de Leon, Leiden University, The Netherlands
Panellists: Ludolf van Hasselt, DG Energy and Transport, European Commission
Jan Ernst de Groot, Senior Vice-President Government & Industry Affairs, KLM
John Balfour, Partner, Beaumont & Son, London
Mark Gerchick, Partner, Gerchick-Murphy Associates, Washington D.C.
- 16:00 – 16:15 Coffee/tea
- 16:15 – 17:45 **A New Structure for the Industry post 9/11 and Open Skies?**
Moderator: Trevor Soames, Partner, Howrey, Simon, Arnold & White, Brussels
Panellists: Joos Stragier, DG Competition, European Commission
Michael Whitaker, Vice-President International & Regulatory Affairs, United Airlines
Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus, Secretary General, Association of European Airlines (AEA)
Tony Davis, Managing Director, bmi Baby
- 17:45 – 18:00 President's Closing
Professor P. D. Dagtoglou, President of the Association
- 18:00 – 18:30 Cocktail Reception

DRINKS RECEPTION AND DINNER WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2003

Speakers and delegates are invited to a drinks reception and dinner, to commence at 7pm at **Kolya Restaurant**, 106 Chaussée de Charleroi, B-1060 Brussels. The charge for the dinner is included in the conference fee, however if a speaker or delegate wishes to bring a companion, a payment of GBP 50 will be required. *Limited space available so please book early!*

CONFERENCE VENUE

Conrad Hotel, 71 Avenue Louise, Brussels, Tel. +32 (0)2 542 42 42 / Fax. +32 (0)2 542 42 00.

REGISTRATION FEE

The conference fee (to include dinner, drinks, lunch, papers and a free copy of the published papers of the 2002 Annual Conference) is GBP 400 for members (as at 1 October 2003) and GBP 500 for non-members. The 2003 membership fee is GBP 25 for individuals and GBP 75 for companies/firms.

Students - Air law students will by special application to the Treasurer be able to participate in the annual conference for a reduced fee of GBP 200. The number of students will be limited to 10. Those who are admitted to participate in the conference shall complete and submit the registration form and pay the reduced conference fee as per payment instructions set out below.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

A limited number of rooms have been reserved at special rates at the following hotels:

Conrad Hotel (which is also the conference venue), 71 Avenue Louise, B-1050, Brussels, Tel: +32 (0)2 542 4242 / Fax: +32(0)2 542 4200. The rate is EUR 255 / GBP 180 for a Deluxe King room per night.

Hotel Manos Premier (which is also the Gala dinner venue and within walking distance from the conference venue, The Conrad Hotel), 100-106 Chaussée de Charleroi, B-1060 Brussels, Tel: +32 (0)2 537 9682 / Fax: +32 (0)2 539 3655. The rate is EUR 175 / GBP 120 for a standard double room per night.

Rooms are available on a first come first served basis and bookings should be made directly with the hotel as soon as possible by referring to the European Air Law Association Conference.

CANCELLATIONS/CHANGES

The closing date for reservations is 24th October 2003, although the organizers may, at their discretion, accept later reservations. Cancellations can be accepted up to 30th October 2003, subject to deduction of GBP 50 to cover administration. Thereafter there will be no refund. Cancellations should be notified to Mr. Henrik Lind at the address provided. The name of the delegate may be changed at any time before commencement of the conference.

PROGRAMME CONTENT

The language of the conference will be English. While every effort will be made to maintain the programme as described, the Association reserves the right to alter the content of the conference or the names of the speakers without notice.

LAW SOCIETY CPD

The conference has been approved by the Law Society of England and Wales for the purposes of Continuous Professional Development credits under reference BXK/EALA