



E4FC calls on the European Parliament to fight for Fair Competition in the aviation sector

In light of the plenary debate on the Parliament's Initiative Report on an Aviation Strategy for Europe, E4FC wants to stress the importance of EU and national legislators pursuing Fair Competition. The EU airline industry needs a policy that strengthens the accessibility of European hubs, safeguards competitiveness and direct connectivity, social standards and consumer choice in Europe in the longer term. However, this is actually at stake because European airlines are rapidly losing market share to the heavily state subsidized Middle Eastern carriers, with an inevitable negative impact on the European economy.

EU connectivity is increasingly being challenged by flights, which connect at hubs beyond EU borders, operated by non-EU and heavily state subsidized airlines. Flights to and from the EU, operated by an EU-based airline will result in at least four times more local employment than the same flight operated by a non-EU airline. But more and more EU based airlines lose market share and cancel once profitable routes, because of a non existing level playing field and competitors that completely ignore the principles of Fair Competition.

E4FC strongly believes that the inclusion of provisions effectively securing undistorted competition in bilateral air services agreements is vital, and calls on the European Parliament to play an active role in the establishment of fair and enforceable bilateral air service agreements. In the meantime, E4FC will continue its campaign to enforce international aviation and trade rules, ensure fair and equitable competition and establish a satisfactory level playing field.

Europeans for Fair Competition is a coalition of concerned European airlines, airline employees, passengers, and many others who have identified illegal aviation subsidies from two Middle Eastern nations as a major threat to EU jobs and the larger EU economy.

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Contact

Website: www.e4fc.eu

E-mail: info@e4fc.eu

Twitter: [@CompetitionEU](https://twitter.com/CompetitionEU)

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