



Report by the Technical Adviser

Agenda Item:	Reference: HACC.488
Date: May 10 2007	
The EU-US Air Transport Agreement	

1. At the last meeting of the Committee on 28 March 2007, the Committee considered my report (HACC.481) on the Draft Agreement which the European Union was proposing to enter into with the United States. The Draft Agreement contained a number of provisions which would produce a range of situations adverse to many interests at Heathrow Airport, largely as the price to pay for the Union to gain improvements for other European countries in their air transport relations with the United States.
2. That report conveyed a copy of a letter sent by the Chairman to the Secretary of State for Transport urging him to resist the signing of the Agreement so as to secure a better settlement for the United Kingdom.
3. The Agreement was signed between the representatives of the two countries on 30 April 2007.
4. A response to the Chairman's letter, dated 26 March, was received from the Industry and Bilateral Relations Manager of the International Aviation and Safety Division of the Department for Transport.
5. The letter gave no assurances in regard to the matters raised by the Chairman and suggested that if the second stage of negotiation of the Agreement, a stage to which the US is committed, was not successful within 30 months, it would enable the withdrawal of rights granted in the April Agreement.
6. It is difficult to be sure about all of the implications of the Agreement as finally concluded without a sight of the various clauses and an application has been made to the Department under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act for a copy of the document, as signed.
7. Copies of the letter received from the Department and of that sent to it under the Freedom of Information Act, are annexed to this report.

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