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Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on common rules ensuring basic air connectivity with regard to the withdrawal of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the Union**

(Text with EEA relevance)

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

### 1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

- **Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

The United Kingdom submitted on 29 March 2017 the notification of its intention to withdraw from the Union pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. This means that, if the Withdrawal Agreement<sup>1</sup> is not ratified, the Unions' primary and secondary law will cease to apply to the United Kingdom from 30 March 2019 ('the withdrawal date'). The United Kingdom will then become a third country.

International air transport cannot take place without the explicit consent of the States involved; this is a consequence of their complete and exclusive sovereignty over the air space above their territory. It is customary for States to organise air transport between them by means of bilateral Air Services Agreements (ASA) which lay down the specific rights mutually granted and the conditions of their exercise. Traffic rights and services directly related to their exercise are expressly excluded from the scope of the General Agreement on Trade in Services<sup>2</sup>.

Within the Union, the freedom for the Member States' air carriers (Union air carriers) to provide intra-EU air services exclusively stems from Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community, which also lays down the rules for the licensing of those carriers.

In the absence of any provisions to the contrary in a withdrawal agreement, air services between the United Kingdom and the Member States would cease to be governed by the said Regulation upon withdrawal. Moreover, certain air carriers, by reason of their holding an operating licence issued by the United Kingdom, or their principal place of business being located in the United Kingdom, or their being majority owned or effectively controlled by the United Kingdom or its nationals, would cease to meet the conditions laid down in the said Regulation to qualify as Union carriers.

It follows that, in the absence of provisions to the contrary in a withdrawal agreement, as from 30 March 2019 there would be no legal basis for the provision of air services between the United Kingdom and the Member States by the respective carriers. The carriers in any of the situations described above would lose their Union operating licence and, as a consequence, no longer enjoy the right to provide intra-Union air services.

Direct air transport services between the United Kingdom and the Member States are almost entirely in the hands of United Kingdom and Union air carriers. The loss by those air carriers of their right to provide air services between the United Kingdom and the Member States would therefore result in serious disruption. Most, if not all, air routes between the Union and the United Kingdom would cease to be served. In contrast, intra-Union routes no longer served by United Kingdom carriers following withdrawal would remain fully accessible to Union carriers.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft\\_withdrawal\\_agreement\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement_0.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Annex 1B of the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994

In a no-deal scenario, it is expected that the consequences for the respective economies would be severe, as described further down: air travel time and costs would significantly increase as alternative routes are sought, and so would pressure on the air transport infrastructure within those alternative routes, while air transport demand would fall. As a result, not only the air transport sector, but also other sectors of the economy which are largely dependent on air transport would be hit. The resulting barriers to trade would hinder business in distant markets as well as business (re)location. The disruption of air transport connectivity would represent the loss of a strategic asset for the Union and the Member States.

In its Communication ‘Preparing for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 30 March 2019: a Contingency Action Plan’ of 13 November 2018<sup>3</sup> the Commission announced its intention to propose measures to ensure that air carriers from the United Kingdom are allowed to fly over the territory of the European Union, make technical stops (e.g. refuelling without embarkation/disembarkation of passengers), as well as land in the European Union and fly back to the United Kingdom. Those measures would be subject to the condition that the United Kingdom applies equivalent measures to air carriers from the European Union.

The present proposal thus has the objective to lay down provisional measures to govern air transport between the Union and the United Kingdom following the latter's withdrawal from the Union (Article 1). These measures are intended to maintain basic connectivity for a short transitional period (Article 12).

In the first place (Article 3), the proposed Regulation provides for the unilateral grant of first, second, third and fourth freedom traffic rights to United Kingdom air carriers so that these can continue to overfly and make technical stops in Union's territory, as well as serve direct routes between the respective territories. No distinction is made between passenger and cargo operations, or scheduled and non-scheduled services. Consistent with the proposed Regulation's objective to ensure basic connectivity, the capacity which United Kingdom air carriers will be allowed to offer is frozen at pre-Brexit levels expressed in number of flights ("frequencies"). None of the usual operational flexibility devices (such as cooperative marketing arrangements, leasing of aircraft, change of gauge or co-terminalisation) have been foreseen for United Kingdom carriers to provide air services under the Regulation.

The rights granted to United Kingdom carriers being subject to a principle of “reciprocity”, the proposed Regulation (Article 4) lays down a mechanism to ensure that the rights enjoyed by Union carriers in the United Kingdom stay equivalent to those granted to UK carriers under the proposed Regulation. If that is not the case, the Commission is empowered to adopt the necessary measures to correct the situation by means of implementing acts, including the limitation or withdrawal of operating authorisations of United Kingdom air carriers. The assessment of the level of equivalence and the adoption of corrective measures by the Commission are not solely linked to strict, formal correspondence between the two legal orders; this is because of the marked differences between the respective markets and in order to avoid a blind mirroring approach - which might in the end prove counter to the Union interest.

Just as the Union strives to achieve in all its air services agreements, the proposed Regulation, even though it aims to temporarily ensure basic connectivity, lays down a flexible mechanism to ensure that Union air carriers enjoy fair and equal opportunities to compete with United

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2018) 880 final

Kingdom carriers once the United Kingdom will no longer be bound by Union law. A level playing field requires that, even after the withdrawal, the United Kingdom continues to apply sufficiently high standards in the area of air transport as regards: fair competition including the regulation of cartels, abuse of dominant position and mergers; the prohibition of unjustified government subsidies; the protection of workers; the protection of the environment; safety and security. Moreover, it must be ensured that Union carriers are not discriminated against in the United Kingdom, be it *de iure* or *de facto*. The proposed regulation thus charges the Commission (Article 5) with the task to monitor the conditions of competition between Union and United Kingdom air carriers and empowers it to adopt the necessary measures, by means of implementing acts, to ensure that those conditions remain fulfilled at all times.

The necessary procedures are established so as to enable the Member States to verify that air carriers, aircraft and crews flying into their territories under this Regulation are licensed or certified by the United Kingdom in accordance with internationally recognised safety standards, that all relevant national and Union legislation is complied with and that the allowed rights are not exceeded (Articles 6 to 9).

Explicit provision is made to recall that Member States must not negotiate nor enter into any bilateral air services agreements with the United Kingdom on matters falling under the scope of this Regulation and that they must not otherwise grant UK carriers, in connection with air transport, any rights other than those granted in this Regulation. (Article 3). Nevertheless, the respective competent authorities will of course be able to cooperate as necessary for the good implementation of the Regulation (Article 10), so that the least possible disturbance is brought to the management of the air services that will continue to be provided under its aegis after the United Kingdom's withdrawal.

The European Council (Article 50) reiterated its call, on 13 December 2018, for work on preparedness at all levels for the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal to be intensified, taking into account all possible outcomes. This act is part of a package of measures which the Commission is adopting in response to this call.

- **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

This proposed Regulation is intended as a *lex specialis* that would address some of the consequences ensuing from the fact that Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 will no longer apply to air transport between the United Kingdom and the remaining Member States as from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and in the absence of a withdrawal agreement. The proposed terms are limited to what is necessary in this respect, so as to avoid disproportionate disruptions. They are intended to apply only for a limited period of time. This proposal is therefore fully consistent with the existing legislation and notably with Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008.

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

This proposal complements Union Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008. Although the approach followed in the Union's air transport agreements with third countries has been respected in some areas (e.g. operating authorisations), the specific purpose and context of this Regulation, as well as its unilateral nature, necessarily require a more restrictive approach in the grant of rights, as well as specific provisions intended to preserve equality of rights and a level playing field.

## **2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY**

- **Legal basis**

The legal basis is Article 100(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

The proposed act would complement Union Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008, so that basic connectivity is ensured despite the fact that that Regulation will have ceased to apply in respect of the transport operations in question. Such connectivity would be ensured in an equal manner for traffic to and from all points in the Union, which avoids distortions in the internal market. Action is therefore indispensable at Union level and the result could not be achieved through action at Member-State level. .

- **Proportionality**

The proposed Regulation is considered proportionate as it is capable of avoiding disproportionate disruptions in a manner that also ensures equal conditions of competition for Union carriers. It does not go beyond what is necessary to achieve this objective. This is the case, in particular, for the conditions under which the relevant rights are conferred, which inter alia pertain to the need that equivalent rights be conferred by the United Kingdom and to fair competition, and for the limitation of the regime in time.

- **Choice of the instrument**

Since the act governs matters closely related to Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 and is intended, like this Regulation, to ensure fully harmonised conditions of competition, it should come in form of a Regulation. This form also best responds to the urgency of the situation/context, since the time available before the withdrawal (without a withdrawal agreement being concluded) is too short to allow for a transposition of provisions contained in a Directive.

## **3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

- **Ex-post evaluations/fitness checks of existing legislation**

This is not applicable due to the exceptional, temporary and one-off nature of the event necessitating this proposal which does not relate to the objectives of existing legislation.

- **Stakeholder consultations**

The challenges arising from the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU and possible solutions have been raised by various aviation stakeholders and Member States representatives.

A common theme in the presented views was the need for a regulatory intervention in order to maintain a certain degree of air connectivity. When it comes to traffic rights, stakeholders are not able to take their own contingency measures in order to mitigate the harmful impact of the possible absence of a withdrawal agreement. At least six air carriers' and groups of air carriers' and airports' representatives (via mostly Airports Council International Europe) expressed the view that the status quo should be maintained with UK air carriers by keeping the same level of market access as before the withdrawal. However, other stakeholders

(mostly EU-27 air carriers' representatives) to the contrary highlighted that the status quo should not be maintained in the absence of full regulatory alignment, in order to ensure a level playing field in the market. On 12 June 2018, the Commission organised an EU-27 workshop on preparedness, during which Member States' civil aviation experts have in particular stressed the need to adopt EU level contingency measures in order to ensure basic connectivity between the EU-27 and the UK in case of an absence of a withdrawal agreement.

These comments have been given due consideration on the preparation of the proposal.

- **Collection and use of expertise**

Several forms of assessment of the consequences of the United Kingdom's withdrawal for the air transport sector were shared with the Commission by relevant stakeholders. These assessments conclude that absence of air traffic between the EU-27 and the UK would cause significant disruptions in the EU-27. Air connectivity plays a crucial role within the wider economy. More than facilitating mobility, aviation is a strong driver of trade, growth and jobs. The direct contribution of aviation to the EU GDP is €110 billion, while the overall impact, including tourism, is as large as €510 billion through the multiplier effect<sup>4</sup>. In total, passengers travelling between the EU-27 and the UK represented 16% of all intra-EU traffic in 2016, although this figure varied significantly between EU Member States and can account for over 25%. Furthermore, in 2017, 19,3% of the intra-EU air transport was carried out by UK licenced air carriers, while 44,7 % of the traffic between the EU-27 and the UK was carried out by EU-27 licensed air carriers. Alternative transport options are available notably with rail and sea links but only for a small number of countries such as Belgium, France and Ireland. For other countries that are further away in the East and South of the Union, road and rail travel times make such not substitutable to air travel. Consequently, the significant damaging impact of the total loss of air connectivity on the EU-27 economy and citizens needs to be mitigated.

- **Impact assessment**

An impact assessment is not needed, due to the exceptional nature of the situation and limited needs of the period during which the change of status of the United Kingdom is implemented. No materially and legally different policy options are available other than the one proposed.

- **Fundamental rights**

This proposal has no consequence for the protection of fundamental rights.

#### **4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

#### **5. OTHER ELEMENTS**

- **Implementation plans and monitoring, evaluation and reporting arrangements**

Not applicable.

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<sup>4</sup> Steer Davies Gleave – Study on employment and working conditions in air transport and airports: final report, 2015

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 100(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee<sup>5</sup>,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions<sup>6</sup>,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) On 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom submitted the notification of its intention to withdraw from the Union pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. The Treaties will cease to apply to the United Kingdom from the date of entry into force of a withdrawal agreement or failing that, two years after that notification, that is to say from 30 March 2019, unless the European Council, in agreement with the United Kingdom, unanimously decides to extend that period.
- (2) Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>7</sup> sets out the conditions for the granting of the Union operating licence to air carriers and establishes the freedom to provide intra-EU air services.
- (3) In the absence of any special provisions, the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the Union would end all rights and obligations ensuing from Union law in respect of market access as established by Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008, insofar as the relationship between the United Kingdom and the remaining 27 Member States is concerned.
- (4) It is therefore necessary to establish a temporary set of measures enabling carriers licensed in the United Kingdom to provide air transport services between the territory of the latter and the remaining 27 Member States. In order to ensure a proper equilibrium between the United Kingdom and the remaining Member States, the rights

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<sup>5</sup> OJ C , , p. .

<sup>6</sup> OJ C , [...], p. .

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on common rules for the operation of air services in the Community (Recast) (OJ L 293, 31.10.2008, p. 3).

thus conferred should be conditional upon the conferral of equivalent rights by the United Kingdom to carriers licensed in the European Union and be subject to certain conditions ensuring fair competition.

- (5) In order to reflect its temporary character, the application of this Regulation should be limited to a short period of time, without prejudice to the possible negotiation and entry into force of a future agreement covering the provision of air services agreement between the Union and the United Kingdom.
- (6) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission as regards the adoption of measures to guarantee a fair degree of reciprocity between the rights unilaterally granted by the Union and the United Kingdom to each other's air carriers, and to ensure that Union carriers can compete with United Kingdom carriers under fair conditions in the provision of air services. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>8</sup>.
- (7) Since the objective of this Regulation, namely to lay down provisional measures governing air transport between the Union and the United Kingdom in the event of the absence of a withdrawal agreement, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of its scale and effects, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve that objective.
- (8) The provisions of this Regulation should enter into force as a matter of urgency and apply, in principle, as from the day following that on which the Treaties cease to apply to and in the United Kingdom unless a withdrawal agreement concluded with the United Kingdom has entered into force by that date. However, in order to allow for the necessary administrative procedures to be conducted as early as possible, certain provisions should apply as from the entry into force of this Regulation,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Scope**

This Regulation lays down a temporary set of measures governing air transport between the Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("United Kingdom") following its withdrawal from the Union.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions apply:

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<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).



1. "air transport" means the carriage by aircraft of passengers, baggage, cargo, and mail, separately or in combination, held out to the public for remuneration or hire, including scheduled and non-scheduled air services;
2. "international air transport" means air transport that passes through the airspace over the territory of more than one State;
3. "Union air carrier" means an air carrier with a valid operating licence granted by a competent licensing authority in accordance with Chapter II of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008;
4. "UK air carrier" means an air carrier which :
  - (a) has its principal place of business in the United Kingdom; and
  - (b) fulfils one of the following two conditions:
    - (i) the United Kingdom and/or nationals of the United Kingdom own more than 50% of the undertaking and effectively control it, whether directly or indirectly through one or more intermediate undertakings; or
    - (ii) Union Member States and/or nationals of Union Member States and/or other Member States of the European Economic Area and/or nationals of such States, in any combination, whether alone or together with the United Kingdom and/or nationals of the United Kingdom own more than 50% of the undertaking and effectively control it, whether directly or indirectly through one or more intermediate undertakings,;
  - (c) in the case referred to in point (b)(ii), held a valid operating licence in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 on the day before the first day of application of this Regulation referred to in Article 12(2);
5. "effective control" means a relationship constituted by rights, contracts or any other means which, either separately or jointly and having regard to the considerations of fact or law involved, confer the possibility of directly or indirectly exercising a decisive influence on an undertaking, in particular by:
  - (a) the right to use all or part of the assets of an undertaking;
  - (b) rights or contracts which confer a decisive influence on the composition, voting or decisions of the bodies of an undertaking or otherwise confer a decisive influence on the running of the business of the undertaking;
6. "competition law" means law which addresses the following conduct, where it may affect air transport services:
  - (a) conduct that consists in:
    - (i) agreements between air carriers, decisions by associations of air carriers and concerted practices which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition;
    - (ii) abuses by one or more air carriers of a dominant position;
    - (iii) measures taken or maintained in force by the United Kingdom in case of public undertakings and undertakings to which the United Kingdom grants special or exclusive rights and which are contrary to points (i) or (ii); and

(b) concentrations between air carriers which significantly impede effective competition, in particular as a result of the creation or strengthening of a dominant position;

7. "subsidy" means any financial contribution granted to an air carrier or an airport by the government or any other public body at any level, conferring a benefit, and including:

(a) the direct transfer of funds, such as grants, loans or equity infusion, the potential direct transfer of funds, the assumption of liabilities, such as loan guarantees, capital injections, ownership, protection against bankruptcy or insurance;

(b) the foregoing or non-collection of revenue that is otherwise due;

(c) the provision of goods or services other than general infrastructure, or the purchase of goods or services; or

(d) the making of payments to a funding mechanism or entrustment or direction to a private body to carry out one or more of the functions mentioned under (a), (b) and (c) which would normally be vested in the government or other public body and the practice in no real sense differs from practices normally followed by governments;

No benefit is deemed to be conferred by a financial contribution carried out by a government or other public body if a private market operator solely driven by profitability prospects, in the same situation as the public body in question, would have carried out the same financial contribution;

8. "independent competition authority" means an authority which is in charge of the application and enforcement of competition law as well as the control of subsidies, and fulfils all of the following conditions:

(a) the authority is operationally independent and is appropriately equipped with the resources necessary to carry out its tasks ;

(b) in performing its duties and exercising its powers, the authority has the necessary guarantees of independence from political or other external influence and acts impartially; and

(c) the decisions of the authority are subject to judicial review;

9. "discrimination" means differentiation of any kind without objective justification in respect of the supply of goods or services, including public services, employed for the operation of air transport services, or in respect of their treatment by public authorities relevant to such services;

10. "scheduled air transport service" means a series of flights possessing all the following characteristics:

(a) on each flight seats and/or capacity to transport cargo and/or mail are available for individual purchase by the public (either directly from the air carrier or from its authorised agents);

(b) it is operated so as to serve traffic between the same two or more airports, either:

(i) according to a published timetable, or

- (ii) with flights so regular or frequent that they constitute a recognisably systematic series;
- 11. "non-scheduled air transport service" means a commercial air transport service performed other than as a scheduled air service;
- 12. "territory of the Union" means the land territory, internal waters and territorial sea of the Member States to which the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union apply and under the conditions laid down in those Treaties, and the air space above them;
- 13. "territory of the United Kingdom" means the land territory, internal waters and territorial sea of the United Kingdom and the air space above them;
- 14. "Convention" means the Convention on International Civil Aviation, opened for signature at Chicago on 7 December 1944.

### *Article 3*

#### **Traffic rights**

1. UK air carriers may, under the conditions laid down in this Regulation:
  - (a) fly across the territory of the Union without landing;
  - (b) make stops in the territory of the Union for non-traffic purposes, within the meaning of the Convention;
  - (c) perform scheduled and non-scheduled international air transport services for passengers, combination of passengers and cargo and all-cargo services between any pair of points of which one is situated in the territory of the United Kingdom and the other one is situated in the territory of the Union;
2. Subject to Articles 4 and 5, in the provision of scheduled air transport services pursuant to this Regulation, the total seasonal capacity to be provided by UK air carriers for routes between the United Kingdom and each Member State shall not exceed the total number of frequencies operated by those carriers on those routes during respectively the IATA winter and summer seasons of the year of 2018.
3. The Member States shall neither negotiate nor enter into any bilateral agreements or arrangements with the United Kingdom on matters falling within the scope of this Regulation. They shall not otherwise grant UK air carriers, in connection with air transport, any rights other than those granted by this Regulation.

### *Article 4*

#### **Equivalence of rights**

1. The Commission shall monitor the rights granted by the United Kingdom to Union air carriers and the conditions for their exercise.
2. Where the Commission determines that the rights granted by the United Kingdom to Union air carriers are not, *de jure or de facto*, equivalent to those granted to UK air carriers under this Regulation, or that those rights are not equally available to all Union carriers, it may, in order to restore equivalence, by means of implementing

acts adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008:

- (a) adjust the capacity available to UK air carriers within the limit laid down in Article 3(2) and require the Member States to adapt the operating authorisations of UK air carriers, both existing and newly granted, accordingly;
- (b) require the Member States to refuse, suspend or revoke the said operating authorisations; or
- (c) adopt other appropriate measures.

#### *Article 5*

#### **Fair competition**

1. The Commission shall monitor the conditions under which Union air carriers and Union airports compete with UK air carriers and United Kingdom airports for the provision of air transport services covered by this Regulation.
2. Where it determines that, as a result of any of the situations referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, the said conditions are appreciably less favourable than those enjoyed by UK air carriers, the Commission may, in order to remedy that situation, by means of implementing acts adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 25(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008:
  - (a) adjust the capacity available to UK air carriers within the limit laid down in Article 3(2) and require the Member States to adapt the operating authorisations of UK air carriers, both existing and newly granted, accordingly;
  - (b) require the Member States to refuse, suspend or revoke the said operating authorisations for some or all UK air carriers; or
  - (c) adopt other appropriate measures.
3. Implementing acts under paragraph 2 may be adopted to remedy the following situations:
  - (a) the granting of subsidies by the United Kingdom;
  - (b) failure, by the United Kingdom to have in place or to effectively apply competition law;
  - (c) failure by the United Kingdom to establish or maintain an independent competition authority;
  - (d) the application by the United Kingdom of standards in the protection of workers, safety, security or the environment which are inferior to those laid down in Union law or, in the absence of relevant provisions in Union law, inferior to those applied by all Member States or, in any event, inferior to relevant international standards;
  - (e) any form of discrimination against Union air carriers.
4. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the Commission may request information from the competent authorities of the United Kingdom, UK air carriers or United Kingdom airports. Where the competent authorities of the United Kingdom, the UK air carrier or United Kingdom airport do not provide the information requested within the

reasonable period prescribed by the Commission, or provide incomplete information, the Commission may proceed in accordance with paragraph 2.

## *Article 6*

### **Operating authorisation**

1. Without prejudice to Union and national aviation safety legislation, in order to exercise the rights granted to them under Article 3, UK air carriers shall be required to obtain an operating authorisation from each Member State in which they wish to operate.
2. On receipt of an application for an operating authorisation from a UK air carrier, the Member State concerned shall grant the appropriate operating authorisation without undue delay, provided that:
  - (a) the applicant UK air carrier holds a valid operating licence in accordance with the legislation of the United Kingdom; and
  - (b) effective regulatory control over the applicant UK air carrier is exercised and maintained by the United Kingdom, the competent authority is clearly identified and the UK air carrier holds an air operator certificate delivered by the said authority.
3. Without prejudice to the need to allow for sufficient time for the carrying out of necessary assessments, UK air carriers are entitled to submit their applications for operating authorisations as from the day this Regulation enters into force. The Member States shall have the power to approve those applications as from that day, provided that the conditions for such approval are met. However, any authorisations thus granted shall take effect no earlier than on the first day of application of this Regulation referred to in Article 12(2).

## *Article 7*

### **Operational plans, programmes and schedules**

1. UK air carriers shall submit the operational plans, programmes and schedules for air services to the competent authorities of each Member State concerned, for their approval. Any such submission shall be made at least 30 days prior to the start of the operations.
2. Subject to Article 6, the operational plans, programmes and schedules for the IATA season that is in progress on the first day of application of this Regulation referred to in Article 12(2) and those for the first season thereafter may be submitted, and approved, before that date.

## *Article 8*

### **Refusal, revocation, suspension and limitation of authorisation**

1. Member States shall refuse, or as the case may be, revoke or suspend the operating authorisation of a UK air carrier where:
  - (a) the air carrier does not qualify as a UK air carrier under this Regulation; or

- (b) the conditions laid down in Article 6(2) are not complied with.
2. The Member States shall refuse, revoke, suspend, limit or impose conditions on the operating authorisation of a UK air carrier, or limit or impose conditions on its operations in any of the following circumstances:
    - (a) the applicable safety and security requirements are not complied with;
    - (b) the applicable requirements relating to the admission to, the operation within, or the departure from the territory of the Member State concerned of aircraft engaged in air transport are not complied with;
    - (c) the applicable requirements relating to the admission to, operation within, or departure from the territory of the Member State concerned of passengers, crew, baggage, cargo, and/or mail on aircraft (including regulations relating to entry, clearance, immigration, passports, customs and quarantine, or in the case of mail, postal regulations) are not complied with.
  3. The Member States shall refuse, revoke, suspend, limit or impose conditions on the operating authorisations of UK air carriers, or limit or impose conditions on their operations, where they are so required by the Commission in accordance with Articles 4 or 5.
  4. The Member States shall inform the Commission and the other Member States of any decisions to refuse or revoke the operating authorisation of a UK air carrier pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2.

#### *Article 9*

#### **Certificates and licences**

Certificates of airworthiness, certificates of competency and licences issued or rendered valid by the United Kingdom and still in force shall be recognised as valid by the Member States for the purpose of the operation of air transport services by UK air carriers under this Regulation, provided that such certificates or licences were issued or rendered valid pursuant to, and in conformity with, as a minimum, the relevant international standards established under the Convention.

#### *Article 10*

#### **Consultation and cooperation**

1. The Member States' competent authorities shall consult and cooperate with the competent authorities of the United Kingdom as necessary in order to ensure the implementation of this Regulation.
2. Member States shall, upon request, provide the Commission without undue delay with any information obtained pursuant to paragraph 1 or any other information relevant for the implementation of Article 4 and Article 5 of this Regulation.

*Article 11*

**Committee**

The Commission shall be assisted by the committee set up in Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008.

*Article 12*

**Entry into force and application**

1. This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
2. It shall apply from the day following that on which Union law ceases to apply to the United Kingdom pursuant to Article 50(3) of the Treaty on European Union.  
However, Articles 6(3) and 7(2) shall apply from the entry into force of this Regulation.
3. This Regulation shall not apply if a withdrawal agreement concluded with the United Kingdom in accordance with Article 50(2) of the Treaty on European Union has entered into force by the date referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 2.
4. This Regulation shall cease to apply on the earlier of the following two dates:
  - (a) the date on which an agreement between the Union and the United Kingdom governing the provision of air transport between them enters into force, or, as the case may be, is provisionally applied; or
  - (b) 30 March 2020.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament*  
*The President*

*For the Council*  
*The President*