

1 April 2021

OC210013

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Transport

Action required by:
Tuesday, 13 April 2021

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Air Services: Ecuador; Rwanda; and Sweden

Purpose

- Seek your approval, jointly with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, to lodge with the Cabinet Economic Development Committee the accompanying paper relating to air services agreements (ASAs) with Ecuador, Rwanda and Sweden.
- Cabinet approval is required to sign international treaties, including ASAs.

Open skies agreement with Ecuador and Rwanda

- By way of correspondence, officials have negotiated open skies ASAs with Ecuador and Rwanda.
- The ASAs will create new opportunities for code-share services, and strengthen New Zealand's connectivity with South America and Africa respectively.

Enhanced air services arrangements with Sweden

- New Zealand signed open skies ASAs with each of Denmark, Norway and Sweden in 2001. The three countries negotiate as a bloc in view of their shared ownership of Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS).
- Each of the three countries subsequently sought changes to the ASAs to provide for European Union (EU) requirements on member countries when negotiating with non-EU members. Of most significance are the provisions relating to the ownership of airlines, e.g., EU airlines may be owned by nationals of any EU or European Free Trade Association country.

Next steps

- The Cabinet Manual requires that you consult the Minister of Foreign Affairs on all proposals relating to international treaties. Therefore, we propose that you refer the attached paper to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- The previous Minister of Foreign Affairs granted waivers from the parliamentary treaty examination process in respect of the Ecuador and Rwanda ASAs, and in respect of the treaty instrument to enter into force the amendments with Sweden.

