

AEA has welcomed the decision of the Icelandic Parliament to submit its candidature to become a member of the EU. Whilst AEA's membership extends beyond the borders of the EU, all member airlines operate extensively within the Community and are subject to its rules & regulations.

Icelandair has been a member of AEA since 1957, while Iceland, along with Norway, has been part of the Single Market for aviation for almost fifteen years, and through AEA its national airline has had a voice in Brussels decision-making, and has been kept fully informed of regulatory developments which affect it every bit as much as the EU carriers.

Said AEA Secretary General Ulrich Schulte-Strathaus: "Icelandic accession to the EU would mean that Icelandic representatives, in the Council, the Commission and the Parliament, will be properly involved in the decisions that affect the Icelandic aviation market. We anticipate that they, as much as any of their colleagues, will appreciate the fundamental role which air transport plays in ensuring European mobility and cohesion".

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Note to the Editor: The Association of European Airlines (AEA) brings together 33 European established scheduled network carriers. These collectively carry 366 million passengers and 7 million tonnes of cargo each year, operating 2,617 aircraft serving 662 destinations in 162 countries with 11,585 flights a day. They provide around 394,200 jobs directly, and generate a total turnover of €79 billion