

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

**Summary of Conclusions for  
Small Group Meeting of Economic Deputies**

September 14, 2017  
White House Situation Room  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions for Small Group Meeting of Economic Deputies on  
Open Skies / Gulf Carriers

**Participants**

Co-Chairs

Everett Eissenstat  
Peter Navarro

OVP

Landon Loomis  
Mark Calabria

State

Ambassador Thomas Shannon  
Paul Brown

Justice

Rachel Brand  
Andrew Finch

Commerce

Earl Comstock  
Eugene Alford

USTR

Stephen Vaughn  
Willis Martyn

Transportation

Derek Kan  
Matthew Kopko

WHCO

Michael Ellis

Staff Secretary

Derek Lyons

CEA

Tomas Philipson  
Robert Porter

NEC


Cletus Willems  
Benjamin Joseloff

NSC

Andrew Clark

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National Economic Council

**Summary of Conclusions**

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- Deputies agreed that preserving the U.S. Open Skies framework is of chief importance in any U.S. Government (USG) engagement on the Gulf carriers issue.
  - Deputies agreed that the USG should take action to address the unfair behavior of the Gulf carriers.
  - Deputies agreed that the USG should seek disciplines on subsidies, transparency, and state-owned enterprises. On routes, Deputies agreed to receive from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar a confirmation that their carriers do not intend to conduct additional 5<sup>th</sup> freedom routes to the United States for the foreseeable future.
  - Deputies agreed that the USG, led by the State Department, should seek to obtain these commitments through bilateral discussions with the UAE and Qatar. Deputies agreed that the International Air Traffic Fair Competitive Practices Act is not the preferred mechanism for resolving this issue.
  - Deputies agreed that it is necessary to provide the State Department with maximum leverage during these bilateral discussions. Deputies agreed that if sufficient progress is not made by a date certain (e.g., the end of the year), additional steps would be considered, which could include Article 15.
  - Deputies tasked the Open Skies / Gulf Carriers PCC-level group to develop: (1) specific asks of the UAE and Qatar; (2) a plan to maximize USG leverage during these discussions; (3) a plan to mitigate any risk to U.S. companies, geopolitical interests, and the Open Skies framework that may flow from USG engagement on this issue; (4) a timeline; and (5) an acceptable end-state if agreement cannot be reached. (Action: All, ongoing)