



Transport

Aviation



About Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP

We are a full service European law firm with offices in London, Brussels, Hamburg and Paris. With over 120 partners, more than 220 other lawyers and nearly 300 support staff, we assist a wide range of international clients, advising across the full range of legal issues.

We provide all of the legal services to be expected of an international law firm and have particular expertise in a number of industry sectors including aviation, transport, travel and technology.

Our clients



Aviation

We have a dedicated group of lawyers, led by three partners, who specialise in aviation work, a number of whom have worked in-house with major airlines and aviation financiers as well as within DG Transport at the European Commission. We are able to supplement this core group with other lawyers specialising in areas including competition, tax, technology and employment who are familiar with and understand the aviation sector.

What we can do

We handle the full range of work required to support our aviation industry clients including:

Aircraft acquisition, finance and lease

We have a great deal of experience in:

- the purchase of new commercial and corporate aircraft
- the financing of new and used aircraft from both lender and borrower perspectives including pre-delivery and export credit agency financing of new aircraft
- the long, medium and short term leasing (both finance and operating) of commercial and corporate aircraft
- the wet leasing and chartering of commercial and corporate aircraft
- the purchase, financing and leasing of spare aircraft engines
- the creation of tax efficient structures for the ownership and leasing of aircraft

Commercial matters

With the benefit of significant airline in-house experience, we have an excellent understanding of the airline commercial environment and are therefore able to provide sensible, pragmatic and creative advice and support on a range of commercial issues including:

- airline alliances
- airline franchises and code-sharing
- airport slot arrangements including slot exchanges
- aircraft and engine maintenance, overhaul, engineering and support
- engine and component power-by-the-hour support arrangements
- ground handling and ground support services
- IT and related services such as CRS

Regulatory and competition

The regulatory and competition authorities around the world have had a long and sustained involvement with the aviation industry. We have significant knowledge and expertise in those areas and are able to offer knowledgeable and creative assistance with:

- airline and route licensing
- airline traffic rights, bilateral and multilateral aviation agreements and treaties
- JAA/EASA regulations including aircraft type certification and airworthiness requirements
- competition and antitrust issues both in relation to the EC and the US including advising in relation to competition/antitrust investigations, anti-trust compliance programmes, merger notifications and market access

Dispute resolution

An important element of our commercial understanding of the industry can be seen in our approach to disputes. We know how disputes can be time consuming and costly for our clients. We believe that we can help by offering strategies to avoid or minimise the escalation of disputes and to resolve them as quickly and as inexpensively as possible. In addition to the usual contractual disputes, we are able to deal with aircraft repossession, product and manufacturer liability issues, aviation insurance and air disaster management.

Airports

We also have significant experience in airport related issues such as funding and State aid schemes, airport concessions, airport construction, licensing and development and airport privatisation and liberalisation issues.

Corporate

The aviation group works closely with our Corporate Group who advise on all aspects of establishing, running, developing, acquiring and funding corporate ventures. Our corporate experience in the aviation sector includes mergers and acquisitions, fundraisings, corporate structuring and restructuring and joint ventures. We have acted on transactions involving participants from across the aviation sector ranging from major airlines and airport operators through to ground handlers and other providers of support services.

Our approach

Commercial solutions

Our objective is to provide appropriate legal advice and support to our clients. That means more than just ensuring it is legally correct. It must be given in the context of the commercial priorities of the transaction or matter and should support the client's business objectives.

Flexible and transparent

We are open with our clients in the way we do business and how we charge for our services. We are happy to discuss fee arrangements as we appreciate the importance of demonstrating value for money.

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