

UK and US sign aviation agreement to protect vital travel links

News story

Transport Secretary signs bilateral agreement safeguarding the future of air travel between the UK and US.



- Transport Secretary, US Secretary of State and US Transportation Secretary co-sign Air Services Agreement ahead of the end of EU transition period
- arrangement safeguards flights between the UK and US
- agreement reinforces the UK's trading relationship with the US, worth over £230 billion

The Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, has today (17 November 2020) signed a new bilateral Air Services Agreement safeguarding the future of air travel between the UK and US past the end of the transition period. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo signed on behalf of the US, along with Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

The arrangement will replace the current EU agreement, preserving the continuation of travel, protecting the economy and ensuring the UK remains one of the world's leading aviation hubs for both travellers and businesses.

Tens of millions of passengers a year use these vital transatlantic routes, contributing to a trading relationship with the US worth over £230 billion. Today's announcement will help ensure that the UK remains open for business with major economies around the world by maintaining this critical global link.

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said:

The Air Services Agreement will allow us to continue to travel and trade with one of our closest friends and allies, working together to mutually boost our economies, either side of the Atlantic. This

is just one of many steps we're taking as we move towards a bright new future at the end of the transition period.

The agreement will enter into full legal force after completion of both sides' procedures for an international agreement.

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