



## *Press Release*

### **SNPL France ALPA, the biggest union representing pilots in France, strongly supports “Europeans for Fair Competition” coalition**

**Roissy CDG, January 19, 2016 - Europeans for Fair Competition Coalition Formed:** *Coalition is working to raise awareness around market distortion and job loss resulting from illegal state-aid to 3 Middle Eastern airlines*

SNPL France ALPA announces its full support of Europeans for Fair Competition (E4FC). E4FC is a coalition of European citizens, organizations and unions working together to raise awareness about the illegal aviation subsidies provided to the state-owned airlines of the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. These subsidies are distorting the marketplace in Europe, harming economic development within Europe, and pose a threat to EU jobs and the larger EU economy.

In February 2015, forensic accounting research revealed that the state-aid provided to Emirates, Etihad Airways, and Qatar Airways by their government owners had reached more than €39 billion. These subsidies and unfair benefits have resulted in growth and capacity dumping across Europe at the detriment of European airlines, and are in violation of the air transport agreements these nations hold with countries both in Europe and around the world.

E4FC aims to end the United Arab Emirates' and the State of Qatar's violations of the air service agreements they hold that grant them access to European skies, and to restore balance to the aviation marketplace.

The SNPL France is happy to see other Europeans unions and employees groups supporting and joining the “E4FC” coalition. In the near future, it is anticipated that more groups will get involved in our efforts and join our coalition, including the airlines who are being adversely impacted by these subsidies.

It's imperative that all the stakeholders collectively convince the European Commission that strong action is needed in order to preserve airlines and hundreds of thousands of jobs in European aviation. This action should result in strong fair competition clauses and enforcement thereof in Air Services Agreements with the Gulf States. The upcoming EU mandate discussions are a perfect opportunity.

“If European airlines and their employees strongly believe that competition leads to aviation market growth, improves product quality, and reduces tickets prices, such competition must be on a level playing field, with fair rules, known by all the stakeholders. European airlines are ready to compete with fair airlines all around the world, but not against States and governments with unlimited financial resources,” said Erick DERIVRY, President of SNPL France ALPA.

**More information can be found on the E4FC website :** <http://e4fc.eu>.

Here the subsidy violations being perpetuated by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are outlined, and a detailed explanation of the negative impact these subsidies are having across the globe is provided.

Supporters can also find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/faircompetitionEU> and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/competitioneu](http://www.twitter.com/competitioneu).

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