



UNITED STATES MISSION
TO THE
EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, October 30, 2008

Jos Delbeke
Acting Director General
Environment Directorate General
B-1049 Brussels

Dear Acting Director General Delbeke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposals as part of the public consultation on Aviation Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (October 7, 2008 to November 3, 2008). Please include this statement of the views of the U. S. government in the public record of your consultation.

The United States reiterates its concerns with the inclusion of international civil aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The United States maintains that such unilateral, compulsory application to foreign carriers operating to and from European Union airports, without the consent of their governments, is inconsistent with the Convention on International Civil Aviation (the Chicago Convention) and the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement.

The United States agrees on the need to address aviation's contribution to climate change and is doing so in a comprehensive approach. The U.S. aviation industry has already achieved significant results in shrinking its carbon footprint while simultaneously growing. Since 2000, U.S. commercial aviation has reduced its carbon emissions by over 70 million tons while flying 20% more passenger miles and 30% more cargo miles. Looking forward, the combination of operational improvements, new technologies, and sustainable alternative fuels, matched with the particular circumstances of the U.S. aviation industry, promises to sustain and even exceed those results.

European Union measures taken without the consent of its international partners threatens global cooperation on climate change in the aviation sector. The United States urges the European Union to engage constructively with its partners to find real solutions, as suggested in the April 2007 letter to the German Presidency, attached hereto. While the conclusions of the October 2008 Transport Council were a positive step, they cannot be construed as sufficient response to our concerns. If the European Union insists on moving forward unilaterally, the United States reserves its right to take appropriate measures in response under international law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristen Silverberg".

Kristen Silverberg
Ambassador

Enclosure: Copy of April 2007 letter to German Presidency