



## Air transport

### What is it about?

Switzerland is at the centre of Europe and has strong international connections. Its airspace is both congested and busy, making international coordination vital. The country needs competitive air carriers to connect it with Europe and the rest of the world, and those carriers rely on good framework conditions.

The air transport agreement between Switzerland and the EU establishes optimal conditions in this regard. It governs the mutual access of EU and Swiss air carriers to the liberalised air transport market, and puts Swiss air carriers on a mostly equal footing with their EU competitors.

The agreement also ensures high safety standards and governs Switzerland's participation in the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the authority responsible for international security regulations. It is the only existing internal market agreement to already include rules regarding state aid. The body responsible for monitoring the agreement in Switzerland is the Competition Commission (COMCO).

### Outcome of exploratory talks and outlook for negotiations

In line with the exploratory talks, the institutional elements will also be incorporated in the air transport agreement.