

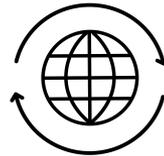
# American aviation interests push for US-China open skies agreement

## Aviation agreements with China



### Status of US aviation agreements:

The US has bilateral aviation agreements with many countries. However, there are no open skies agreements with **China, Japan, South Africa** and some **South American** countries.



### Reasons for open skies with China:

- Open skies is a prerequisite for US approval of US-China airlines' joint ventures with antitrust immunity
- The UK recently signed an open skies agreement with China in what ministers claim is the first of a series of open skies agreements to boost trade and tourism after Brexit
- The US will be able to evaluate the way this deal **impacts UK trade and may** be more inclined to pursue a deal with China to remain competitive with other countries **with which they have an agreement**



### Barriers to open skies with China:

- In 2015 the US and China were in talks to sign an open skies agreement, but negotiations stalled over U.S. fears its airlines will be given less attractive time slots for take-off and landing than their Chinese rivals
- While there is interest in a new bilateral air services pact, industry experts say an open skies agreement, which would remove market restrictions and allow airlines to coordinate capacity and pricing if they have government approval, is likely years away

### Opinion

Expanding the number of international city-pairs to the US, encouraging innovative and affordable air service (such as long-haul, low-cost service), and tapping the potential of new Boeing and Airbus aircraft to better connect America with the rest of the world should be top priorities for the US government and for US airports and communities, according to John Byerly, an aviation consultant.