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CENTRAL OFFICE

26 May 2020

Margrethe Vestager
Commissioner for Competition
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

Copy to: IAG Board

Dear Commissioner Vestager,

As you will be aware, International Consolidated Airlines Group, S.A (IAG) announced an agreement for the acquisition of Air Europa on 4 November, 2019. Unite the Union, is the trade union representing the largest number of workers in IAG. As such we would like to put on record our serious concerns about this acquisition and our intention to act as a third party interest.

As you might expect, we particularly object to such a large sum of money being used to expand the company while senior management are claiming poverty and seeking to cut the jobs and pay of our members. However, we also note that there are a number of reasons why this merger of Iberia with Air Europa would appear to be anti-competitive and that these may be of greater significance for you.

Our research on IAG indicates that this merger would substantially reduce competition in the market between Europe and Latin America as well as the Spanish domestic market and the Spanish long haul market. While we are aware that you have not yet been officially notified about this case, we assume that both parties still intend to go ahead with the merger (subject to a renegotiation of the price) and that pre-notification discussions are taking place. We therefore want to give you notice that we are gathering detailed evidence from a number of relevant sources that we intend to make available to you at the appropriate phase in your official investigations. We are also discussing these matters with other parties that could be negatively impacted by this takeover.

We would very much like to engage with you on these issues as a matter of urgency and to discuss the process for the forthcoming investigation. It would be appreciated if you could arrange contact with my office to set up a meeting on this, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Graham", with a horizontal line underneath.

Sharon Graham
Executive Officer