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Oneworld welcomes final approval for transatlantic anti-trust immunity

Oneworld has welcomed final approval by the **US Department of Transportation** (DOT) of the application for anti-trust immunity (ATI) for the alliance's transatlantic carriers **American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia** and **Royal Jordanian**. Finnair has been a oneworld member for over ten years.

The approval frees oneworld to compete on a level playing field with the other global alliances, enabling oneworld's carriers to implement their plans to strengthen competition across the Atlantic.

"To our customers this improved cooperation will bring more destinations with better connections, wider price range and also enhanced frequent flyer benefits," says **Paavo Virkkunen**, responsible for Finnair's oneworld alliance relations.

The DOT's approval follows last week's approval by the European Commission of the American, BA and Iberia Joint Business Agreement that allows wide commercial cooperation as well as cooperation in production.

"Currently, Finnair's global route network includes more than 50 international destinations, and 700 more through its cooperation with oneworld alliance partners," notes **Michael Maass**, Finnair's Sales Director for North America. *"These developments will truly benefit the individual partner airlines as well as our passengers."*

Theodore Koumelis - Friday, July 23, 2010