

Liberalizing Air Transportation Between Arab Countries and the Ability to Provide the Requirements of its Success

Mahmoud Zanbouah
Economic Faculty
Damascus University

Abstract

The policy of liberalizing air transportation is considered one part of the economic changes the world has witnessed during the past three decades within the framework of liberalizing world trade and the trend of globalization. In 1978, the United States of America announced the policy of liberalizing air transportation in the American market. The European Union followed the American step in 1993. Under these developments and within the framework of the increasing blocks under the philosophy of globalization, the Arab commission of civil aviation, which is a specialized regional organization with the majority of Arab countries as members and Morocco as its headquarters, took the initiative to enter into the attempts of liberalizing Arab air space when this organization decided in May, 1999 to create a mechanism for implementing gradual program for releasing the freedom of air transportation between Arab countries and signing a multi – lateral agreement that organizes this liberalization

The agreement was signed in Damascus in January 2004 and took effect from November 2006. It is worth mentioning that utilizing the advantages and the positive points of implementing this agreement makes it imperative for the Syrian air transportation sector to provide its requirements in terms of modernizing airports, building a modern air fleet, harmonizing its regulation and rules and other requirements for getting an equitable share that is compatible with the position and the social and economic status of Syria.

For the Paper in Arabic Language See the Pages (237-261)

Consequently, the importance of this research lies in the fact that it studies and analyses the policies and mechanisms of liberalizing airspace and the position of countries towards these policies as well as their characteristics and the rules governing them.

In addition, this research analyses the realities and the horizons of the Syrian Air transportation sector and its current policies as well as the requirements of its success in utilising the advantages of liberalizing airspace between Arab countries and coming out with proposals that may help in getting an equitable share from the implementation of this agreement.