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U.S. DISTRICT COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	)	Criminal No.:
	)	
v.	)	Filed: June 26, 2008
	)	
SOCIÉTÉ AIR FRANCE, and	)	Violation: 15 U.S.C. § 1
KONINKLIJKE LUCHTVAART	)	
MAATSCHAPPIJ N.V.,	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	
	)	

**INFORMATION**

THE UNITED STATES, ACTING THROUGH ITS ATTORNEYS, CHARGES:

**Defendants and Co-Conspirators**

1. Société Air France and Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij N.V. (collectively “Defendants”) are corporations organized and existing under the laws of France and The Netherlands, respectively. During the period covered by this Information, Defendants were engaged in the business of providing air transportation services for cargo and passengers in the United States and elsewhere. At the start of the period covered by this Information until May 2004, the Defendants were operating as two separate, independent companies. Beginning in May 2004 and continuing through the remainder of the period covered by this Information, the companies were under common ownership by a single holding company and began to integrate cargo operations outside of the United States.

2. Various corporations and individuals, not made defendants in this Information, participated as co-conspirators in the offense charged in this Information and performed acts and made statements in furtherance of it.

3. Whenever in this Information reference is made to any act, deed, or transaction of any corporation, the allegation means that the corporation engaged in the act, deed, or transaction by or through its officers, directors, employees, agents, or other representatives while they were actively engaged in the management, direction, control, or transaction of its business or affairs.

### **Background of the Offense**

During the period covered by this Information:

4. Defendants and their co-conspirators provided international air transportation services for cargo ("air cargo services"). Defendants and their co-conspirators provided air cargo services to and from the United States.

5. Defendants' air cargo services transported a variety of cargo shipments, such as heavy equipment, perishable commodities, and consumer goods, on scheduled flights within Europe and internationally, including to and from the United States. For their air cargo services, Defendants charged their customers a rate that consisted of both a base rate and various surcharges and fees, such as a fuel and a post-September 11, 2001 security surcharge. The rates charged by Defendants' co-conspirators for air cargo services also included both a base rate and various surcharges and fees. The amount of the base rate charged by Defendants and their co-conspirators could vary based on the type and weight of the shipment, the origin and/or destination of the shipment, and the nature of the goods or products being shipped. Similarly, the

amount of certain surcharges levied by Defendants and their co-conspirators could vary based on the origin and/or destination of the shipment. The base rate, surcharges and fees charged to customers by Defendants and their co-conspirators for air cargo services are collectively referred to herein as “cargo rates.”

### **Conspiracy to Restrain Trade**

6. From at least as early as January 1, 2000 and continuing until at least February 14, 2006, the exact dates being unknown to the United States, Defendants’ co-conspirators entered into and engaged in a combination and conspiracy to suppress and eliminate competition by fixing the cargo rates charged to customers for international air shipments, including to and from the United States. Defendants joined and participated in the charged conspiracy from on or about May 15, 2001 and continuing until February 2006. The combination and conspiracy engaged in by Defendants and their co-conspirators was in unreasonable restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. § 1).

7. The charged combination and conspiracy consisted of a continuing agreement, understanding, and concert of action among Defendants and their co-conspirators, the substantial terms of which were to suppress and eliminate competition by fixing cargo rates to and from the United States and elsewhere.

### **Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

8. For purposes of forming and carrying out the charged combination and conspiracy, Defendants and their co-conspirators did those things that they combined and conspired to do, including, among other things:

- a. participating in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States, Europe and elsewhere to discuss the cargo rates to be charged on trans-Atlantic air cargo shipments to and from the United States;
- b. agreeing, during those meetings, conversations, and communications, on certain components of the cargo rates to charge for shipments on trans-Atlantic routes to and from the United States;
- c. levying cargo rates in the United States and elsewhere in accordance with the agreements reached; and
- d. engaging in meetings, conversations, and communications in the United States and elsewhere for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing adherence to the agreed-upon cargo rates.

#### **Trade and Commerce**

9. During the period covered by this Information, proposals, contracts, invoices for payment, payments, and other documents essential to the provision of air cargo services were transmitted in interstate and foreign trade and commerce between and among offices of the Defendants and their customers located in various States and foreign countries.

10. During the period covered by this Information, Defendants and their co-conspirators transported substantial quantities of cargo, in a continuous and uninterrupted flow of interstate and foreign commerce, between various foreign countries and the United States, including through various U.S. airports to final destinations in various States.

11. During the period covered by this Information, the business activities of Defendants and their co-conspirators in connection with the air cargo services that are the subject of this Information were within the flow of, and substantially affected, interstate and foreign trade and commerce.

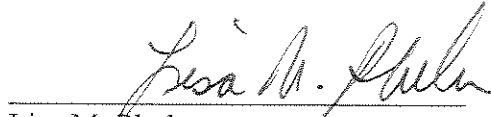
**Jurisdiction and Venue**

12. The combination and conspiracy charged in this Information was carried out, in part, in the District of Columbia within the five years preceding the filing of this Information.  
ALL IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 15, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 1.

Dated: June 26, 2008



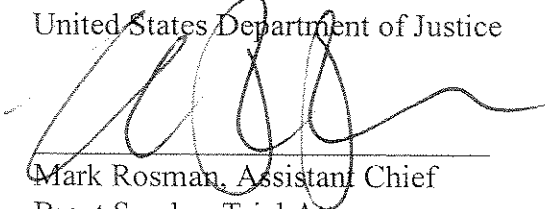
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