

# [Press Releases: United States Signs New Open Skies Agreement With Respect to Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

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Today, the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with regard to Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba (also known as the BES Islands), signed a new bilateral Open Skies Agreement that reflects the dissolution of the Netherland Antilles and the new legal status of the BES Islands as special municipalities of the Netherlands. This Agreement replaces in part the 1998 Air Transport Agreement between the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with respect to the Netherlands Antilles. The new Agreement will enter into force soon after an exchange of diplomatic notes between United States and the Netherlands.

This new Open Skies Agreement strengthens the economic partnership between the United States and the BES Islands by continuing to foster opportunities for air travel and commerce in the future. Open Skies agreements eliminate government intervention in the commercial decisions of air carriers about routes, capacity, and pricing, thereby enabling carriers to provide more affordable, convenient, and efficient air service for consumers and businesses. The United States has Open Skies agreements with more than 120 partners around the world.

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