

**BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

<hr/> U.S.-ROMANIA THIRD-COUNTRY CODE- SHARE OPPORTUNITIES <hr/>)	Docket	OST-99-5096
<hr/> Applications of)		
)		
DELTA AIR LINES, INC.)	Docket	OST-98-4508
UNITED AIR LINES, INC.)		OST-98-4507
NORTHWEST AIRLINES, INC.)		OST-98-4506
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES, INC.)		OST-98-4509

ANSWER OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

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March 1, 1999

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ANSWER OF DELTA AIR LINES, INC.

Delta Air Lines, Inc. (“Delta”) hereby submits its Answer to the Objections filed by Continental Airlines, Inc. (“Continental”) to the Department’s Show Cause Order (Order 99-2-9) selecting, inter alia, Delta to provide third-country code share service to Romania.¹

Continental’s short and perfunctory response to the Show Cause Order raises no new issues and offers no basis for the Department to reconsider its well-reasoned decision. Instead, Continental merely incorporates by reference

¹ The Department awarded the other two available designations to United Air Lines, Inc. (“United”) and Northwest Airlines, Inc. (“Northwest”).

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“the reasons set forth in its application, consolidated answer and consolidated reply.” Objections at 2. The Department has fully considered and rejected Continental’s arguments and correctly determined that Continental’s proposal will provide the fewest service and competitive benefits of any applicant.²

Collectively, the proposals of Delta, United and Northwest will offer 41 weekly flights to Romania, providing online connecting service to 16 different U.S. gateways. No combination that includes Continental’s proposal would match this level of service benefits.

² The Department has tentatively decided to award the fourth designation, effective November 1, 1999, to Continental for its proposed services. No other carrier has applied for this designation. Delta has no objection to awarding Continental the November 1999 designation.

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Continental's Objections do not refute the Department's findings or challenge the overwhelming merits of Delta's proposal. Delta therefore urges the Department promptly to issue a Final Order promptly so that Delta can begin marketing and selling third-country code-share services to Romania in advance of the April 1, 1999 start date.

Respectfully submitted,

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