



New Airline Route Established between Korea and Georgia

Date of Release: 2 July 2024

Dept. in Charge: **International Air Transport Division, MOLIT**

Contact: Annie KIM / Global Media Communicator, MOLIT / audiis2@korea.kr / +82 44 201 3056

Bilateral Air Talks resulted in agreements on establishment of shared passenger and cargo traffic rights (7 flights per week)

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT, Minister PARK Sang-woo) agreed on the establishment of new traffic rights for regular passenger and cargo flights between the two countries at the Korea-Georgia Air Talks* held in Tbilisi, Georgia from Wed. 26 to Thu. 27 June.

* [Chief Representatives] KIM Young-guk, Director General for Aviation Policy, MOLIT, Rep. of Korea / Ketevan Salukvadze, Head of Transport and Logistics Development Policy, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia

Georgia is a country where travel demand* continues to grow as people's interest in new travel destinations increases, and the trade volume** between the two countries has also been steadily increasing as it is located at the trade center connecting Europe and Asia.

* [Number of passenger demands between the two countries] 4,877 in 2017 → 9,113 in 2019 → 9,835 in 2023

** [Trade volume / USD million] 94 in 2017 → 105 in 2019 → 114 in 2021 → 130 in 2022 → 207 in 2023



Moreover, negotiations for the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the two countries have been underway since February 2024, making it a country where further expansion of economic cooperation is expected.

* Economic Partnership Agreement: A trade agreement that includes elements of market opening, such as tariff elimination like the FTA, while emphasizing elements of cooperation for the purpose of mutual prosperity with counterparts

Through the Air Talks this time, the MOLIT agreed to newly establish a bilateral traffic rights for 7 flights per week for both passenger and cargo services

Accordingly, airlines from both countries will be able to flexibly use scheduled flights up to seven times a week for either passenger or cargo based on the needs of each country.

In addition, in order to support the establishment of a flexible indirect operation system for the airlines of both countries, it was agreed to establish a Codesharing provision to enable the participation of not only airlines from the two countries but also third-country airlines*.

* [Example] When Korean national carriers operate flights from Incheon to Central Asia (e.g. Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan) and third-country carriers operate flights from Central Asia to Tbilisi respectively, by Codesharing, enhancement of consumer convenience is possible such as bulk ticketing through the national airlines, mileage accumulations for both sections, and linked baggage services, etc.

MOLIT's Director General for Aviation Policy KIM Young-guk stated, "Although the aviation agreement between Korea and Georgia came into effect back in 2021, due to the delay in holding Air Talks to establish supply capacity between the two countries, direct flights were operated only through non-scheduled basis."



Adding, “With this agreement on the traffic rights, we expect to expand exchanges of human resources and materials between the two countries as well as to enhance the convenience of air transport for the people wishing to travel to Georgia through Codesharing between airlines”.