

Biography – George N. Petsikas

George Petsikas is a native of Montreal. He is a lawyer and holds a masters degree in law from *McGill University's* Institute of Air and Space Law. Since 1990, George has worked for *Air Transat* and more recently for its parent company, Montreal-based *Transat A.T. Inc.*, the world's sixth largest integrated tour operator and holiday travel company in terms of revenue. He currently holds the position of Senior Director, Government and Industry Affairs, responsible for all aviation policy, legislative and regulatory matters in the 32 countries worldwide where *Transat* maintains operations, as well as for overall government, international and industry relations. He is one of Canada's foremost industry experts in bilateral and multilateral air transport negotiations, and has acted as a senior advisor in this respect on the Canadian negotiating teams that concluded the landmark agreements with the United States and the European Union. In September 2008, George was appointed the first president of the *National Airlines Council of Canada*, the industry trade association representing Canada's largest passenger airlines, and acts as chairman of its executive committee responsible for overall operations and strategic policy. He is also a co-founder of the *National Travel and Tourism Coalition of Canada*, as well as a past chairman of the *Canadian Bar Association's* Air and Space Law Section. George is married to a very understanding and patient women, and is the father of two rambunctious boys.