



**FORMAL OPINION**  
**on the State aid scheme for the start-up of new air routes with departure from the International Cluj-Napoca airport**

By analyzing

*The Draft Decision of Cluj Local County on the start-up financial aid for the opening of new air routes and/or air frequencies at the Autonomous Administration International Cluj Airport*

and

the Standard Notification Form for the State aid measures enclosed in the *State aid scheme for the start-up of new air routes with departure from the International Cluj-Napoca airport (2012 – 2016)*, submitted by the Cluj Local County by the address no. 4504/12.03.2012 and registered at the Competition Council with no. RG/3510/12.03.2012, in order to receive a formal opinion

and

ascertaining that:

1. The Cluj-Napoca International Airport is a company controlled by Cluj Local County, having the statute of Autonomous Administration. Therefore, in accordance with the Romanian law, the Cluj-Napoca International Airport is a legal entity which functions based on economic administration and financial autonomy, its management being ensured by an independent Board of Directors.
2. The main objective of the State aid scheme to be implemented is the start-up of new air routes with departure from the Cluj-Napoca International Airport, having as destination cities within the European Union, which would lead to the improvement of the access to air transport services, services of vital importance for the economic and social development of Cluj County.
3. The scheme will concur to regional development by:
  - improving the accessibility for the inhabitants within this region;
  - improving the accessibility for the business environment within this region by developing close connections with the European markets;

- Fostering the development of new air connections with the rest of Europe;
- Fostering foreign investments;
- Fostering the internal tourism.

4. The State aid scheme was elaborated in compliance with the conditions provisioned for in the *Community guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports*.

5. The proposed State aid scheme will be in force for 5 years (2012-2016), being conditioned by the European Commission's prior authorization.

6. The total budget of the scheme is estimated at 5,230,000 Euro, the maximum number of beneficiaries estimated to be financed based on the scheme is 10.

7. The notification is completed in accordance with the standard forms enclosed in Annex I to the Regulation (EC) no. 794/2004 implementing Council Regulation (EC) no. 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty, with the subsequent modifications and completions.

## **COMPETITION COUNCIL**

Based on the *Law on competition no. 21/1996, republished, with the subsequent amendments and completions* and on art. 8 recital (1) in the *Government Emergency Ordinance no. 117/2006 on the national procedures in the State aid field, approved with amendments and completions by the Law no. 137/2007*,

## **ISSUES FORMAL OPINION**

on the Notification of the State aid scheme for the start-up of new air routes with departure from the International Cluj-Napoca airport.