



## FORMAL OPINION

### **On the State aid scheme for the start-up of new air routes with departure from Sibiu International Airport**

By analyzing:

*the Draft Decision of Sibiu Local County on the approval of the start-up financial aid for the opening of new routes and/or air frequencies at the Autonomous Administration Sibiu International 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 Sibiu International Airport (2013-2017), submitted by Sibiu Local County, by the address no.2284/18.02.2013 and registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 2132/21.02.2013, in order to receive a formal opinion, and*

ascertaining that:

1. Sibiu International Airport is a company controlled by Sibiu Local County, having the statute of Autonomous Administration. Therefore, in accordance with the Romanian law, Sibiu International Airport is a legal entity which functions based on economic administration, benefits 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 to facilitate the opening of new air-routes and/or air frequencies with departure from Sibiu 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 the Sibiu County.
3. The scheme will concur to the regional development of the area by:
  - Improving the accessibility of 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 provided by 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 (2013-2017), being conditioned by the European Commission's prior authorization.
6. The total budget of the scheme is estimated at Euro 2,880,619, the maximum number of beneficiaries estimated to be financed based on this scheme is 10.
7. The notification is completed in accordance with the standard forms enclosed in the Annex I to the *Regulation (EC) no. 794/2004 implementing Council Regulation no. 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty, with the subsequent amendments and completions*.

### **COMPETITION COUNCIL**

Based on the *Competition Law no. 21/1996, republished, with the subsequent amendments and completions* and on art. 8 recital (1) of the *Government Emergency Ordinance no. 117/2006 on the national procedures in the State aid field, approved with modifications 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 Sibiu International Airport.