

**European Commission has launched a public consultation on the draft
*Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines***

The purpose of the present consultation is to invite Member States, other institutions and stakeholders to provide feedback on the revised draft *Guidelines on State aid to airports and airlines*. These revised draft guidelines take stock of the new legal and economic situation concerning the public financing of airports and airlines and specify under which conditions such public financing constitute or not State aid under the meaning of Article 107 (1) of the Treaty, and when it constitutes State aid, under which conditions it can be declared compatible with the internal market. The Commission's assessment is based on its experience and decision practice, as well as on its analysis of current market conditions in the airport and aviation sectors.

The Commission proposes a balanced approach, which is neutral vis-à-vis the various business models of airports and airlines, and takes into account the growth prospects of air traffic, the need for regional development and accessibility and the positive role of the Low Cost Carrier model for the development of some regional airports. Against this backdrop the present draft guidelines introduce a new approach to the assessment of compatibility of aid to airports and airlines:

- whereas the 2005 *Aviation guidelines* left open the issue of investment aid, these revised Guidelines define maximum permissible aid intensities depending on the size of the airport;
- for a transitional period of up to 10 years, operating aid to regional airports can be declared compatible;
- the compatibility conditions for start-up aid to airlines during the transitional period have been streamlined and adapted to recent market developments.

The period for this consultation is: 03.07.2013 – 25.09.2013.

The questionnaire is available in:

DOCX:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_aviation_guidelines/aviation_guidelines_en.docx

ODT:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_aviation_guidelines/aviation_guidelines_en.odt

PDF:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_aviation_guidelines/aviation_guidelines_en.pdf