

## Overview

### STATE AID

#### OVERVIEW

The EU Treaty lays down the general position on state aid, which is to say that it is for very limited use only and is strictly controlled, because of the danger of upsetting free-trade and causing imbalances in the market.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The complexity of the air transport industry made it necessary for the EU to issue more detailed guidance and this was achieved with "Guidelines on the application of Articles 92 and 93 of the EC Treaty and Article 61 of the EEA Agreement to State aids in the aviation sector", published in 1994, and "Community guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports", published in 2005.

On 20 February 2014, the Commission adopted its proposal to revise the existing Guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports.

ERA welcomed some positive changes introduced by the guidelines but expressed concerns over the lack of ambition in facing the inconsistent implementation and transparency, as well as the divergent enforcement of the rules across Europe.





