

“Dear,

By letter dated 20 September 2013, your authorities submitted to the Commission's services a draft notification concerning the above-mentioned measure.

*On the basis of the information available, the competent departments of the Directorate General for Competition have come to the preliminary assessment that the planned reorganisation of the regional airports Oostende/Brugge and Antwerp constitutes **State aid**. The pre-notified aid measures for the reorganisation of regional airports*

On 4 April 2014 the Commission adopted its new Aviation Guidelines outlining the conditions of compatibility of measure in favour of airports. The pre-notified investment and operating aid measures for the reorganisation of regional airports shall therefore follow the rules set out in these guidelines. At this stage we have doubts whether in view of other airports in the proximity there is no duplication of airports and whether the limits for operating aid are respected.

This position is not a definitive position of the European Commission itself, but only a preliminary view of the services of DG Competition, based on the information available at this stage. At this stage we are closing the pre-notification.

Best regards,”