Revision of the State Aid Guidelines for the Aviation Sector
Comment by Region Värmland, Karlstad municipality and Karlstad Airport

The revision of the State Aid Guidelines for the Aviation Sector was presented to us by the European Commission DG COMP in Stockholm on 27th August 2013. During the presentation, the commission stated that, under the draft State Aid Guidelines, airports shall cover their own costs and that no operating costs of airports can be covered by state aid from national, regional and local governments.

Region Värmland, Karlstad municipality and Karlstad Airport welcome a clearer common regulatory framework. However, such a framework requires equal conditions. In this context it will be critical to clearly define what is and what is not included in the concept of operating costs of an airport.

Today airports are financed, operated and organized according to different models, depending on the traditions and principles of the country in which they are based.

With the above in mind and for the sake of clarity, we repeat our question: How does the European Commission define operating costs of an airport and what costs does the European Commission include or not include in the concept?

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