



## **AER Conference**

### **EU Guidelines for State Aid for Regional Airports - A Chance to support regional development**

**8 September 2009**

Conference venue  
Comunidad Valenciana  
Rue de la loi 227  
B 1040 Brussels

#### **Introduction**

The discussions about state aid for regional airports started in 2004 with the so-called **Charleroi Case**. The Charleroi airport (now called Brussels South) and the region Wallonie were accused of forbidden State Aid by the European Commission. Quite a few regions, regional airports and low fare airlines expressed their opinion on this case which led in 2005 to the "The community guidelines on financing of airports and start-up aid to airlines departing from regional airports" (Official Journal C 312 9f 09.12.2005). In 2007 AER organised a conference in Poznan (Poland) about the (negative) consequences of these guidelines for the development of regional airports and regions.

These guidelines have to be renewed in 2010. The European Commission has started with the preparations and the discussion among regions has already begun. The new guidelines only can be fruitful for regional development when they take into consideration changes voiced by regions.

#### **Participants**

The conference is meant in the first place for policymakers who already have experience with the present guidelines. But also political representatives of regions and regional airports are invited. Due to the special topic and in order to allow a real discussion between speakers and the audience the number of participants will be limited to 60.

## **Draft programme**

(as of 20 July 2009)

9.00-9:15	<b>Welcome</b> Representative of Comunidad Valenciana
9.15-9:30	<b>Opening</b> Harry Dijkema, minister economic development of the region of Flevoland (NL), chairman of the AER working group regional aviation
9:30-9:50	<b>The EU guidelines and their implication for regional development</b> Klaus Klipp, Secretary General of the Assembly of European Regions AER
9.50-10:10	<b>Regional airports in the region of Valencia</b> Representative of the regional Government of Valencia
10.10-10:30	<b>Practical experiences with the present guidelines</b> Annabelle Lepière,, CMS DeBacker, lawyers, Brussels
10.30-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00- 11.20	<b>The guidelines and regional airports</b> Christoph Köppchen, ACI Europe Policy Manager
11.20-11.10	<b>EU guidelines and Low Fare Airlines</b> John Hanlon, secretary general of ELFAA (European Low Fare Airlines Association)
11.50-12.10	Questions & Answers
12:10-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Regional airports, EU guidelines and regional development – practical examples</b>	
13.30 – 13.50	<b>EU opinions about the guidelines</b> Jean Louis Colson, DG TREN European Commission
13.50 –14.10	<b>The development of Lelystad airport in Flevoland regin</b> Representative of Lelystad Airport
14.10—14.30	<b>EU Guidelines and Brussels South Airport</b> David Gering, commercial director
14:30-15:00	<b>Discussion</b>
15:00	Closing