

12-16 October 2020

Groundhandling supplier selection process and criteria development – support for North Macedonia, Kosovo* and Montenegro CAA experts

The activity aimed to address the question of proper implementation of Council Directive 96/67/EC on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports (OJ L 272, 25.10.1996) (hereinafter: Directive 96/67/EC), especially in terms of selection procedure (tender) for provision of groundhandling services at Skopje Airport and Pristina Airport, respectively.

Through interactive approach and joint discussion, while providing a detailed overview of legal framework as well as numerous examples, two primary objectives were addressed:

- to increase capabilities of Beneficiaries for implementation of Directive 96/67/EC: participants were able to gain thorough and systematic knowledge of all the stages of selection process for groundhandling provider and the rationale behind given regulatory requirements, and
- to enable Beneficiaries to identify potential gaps in national legal framework and consequent rulemaking activities which need to be completed before selection process, in order to be in line with Directive 96/67/EC

With the accomplishment of both of these objectives, wider objective of this activity, liberalization of the groundhandling market in Beneficiaries, will be achieved. Certain topics which were recognized as being particularly crucial for achieving the above-mentioned results were allocated more time and discussed in great detail:

- 1) definition of selection process steps
- 2) definition of main criteria for selection of groundhandling suppliers
- 3) Clarification of responsibilities and tasks of all involved entities.

In total 11 experts from Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia NAA's, participated in discussions. The activity was implemented via web from 12 to 16 October 2020.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

