Based on Article 38-a of the Aviation Law ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" no. 14/06, 24/07, 103/08, 67/10, 24/12, 80/12, 155/12, 42/ 14 97/15, 152/15, 27/16, 31/16, 64/18 and "Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" No. 220/19) and articles 7 and 9 of the Decree on the manner, closer criteria for awarding financial support of domestic and foreign air carriers and the necessary documentation that need to be submitted by the beneficiaries of the financial support ("Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia" no. 249/22), the Commission for the implementation of the procedure for awarding financial support announces:

**PUBLIC CALL**

**For submission of a request for granting financial support for introduction of a new destination/s from the airports in the Republic of North Macedonia to the airports in the ECAA/EU**

1. Subject of this public call is the granting of financial support to domestic and foreign air carriers for introduction of new routes to airports in the ECAA/EU.

2. The provider of the financial support is the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, through the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

3. The period of granting the financial support is from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025.

4. The awarding of the financial support is done through a public call, as a procedure for conducting a public call for awarding of the financial support.

5. The period of validity of the requests is 30 days from the day of the public opening of the requests.

6. The documentation for a request to participate in the procedure for awarding financial support can be taken every working day from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. local time, at the Ministry of Transport and Communications at the Str. Crvena Skopska Opshtina no. 4, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, during the duration of this call, it can either be delivered electronically or downloaded from the official site of the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

7. The deadline for submitting the request for participation in the procedure for granting financial support is 19.01.2023 until 12:00 local time, in the archive of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Requests submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

8. The language in the documentation for participation request in the procedure for granting financial support that need to be submitted, is Macedonian or English with a certified translation into Macedonian (by an authorized court translator).

9. The public opening will be held on January 20, 2023 at 12:00 local time at the location specified in the application documentation.

Persons authorized by the applicants have the right to participate in the public opening.

10. The proofs and documentation that the applicant needs to prove his personal situation, professional activity, economic-financial situation and technical or professional ability are provided in the application documentation.

11. In order to qualify as an applicant for financial support, the air carrier should meet the following conditions:

 - to have an operating license (OL) issued by an EU/ECAA member state in accordance with the regulations of the European Union for issuing operating licenses to air carriers,

 - to have transported, i.e. served at least 10 million passengers in 2019,

 - to have made a profit of at least 25.000.000,00 (twenty-five million) euros in 2019 and

 - to submit a notarized statement that he will continue to operate the destination that is the subject of financial support even after the end of the financial support period, for a period at least equal to the time he received financial support for it, while otherwise that he agrees to return to the provider of financial support all funds that were paid for that destination during the period of granting financial support.

12. The air carrier that is selected as a recipient of financial support should:

- every new destination introduced by "Skopje International Airport" and "St. Apostol Pavle" - Ohrid to the airports to ECAA/EU for the period for which the financial support is granted, which is the subject of financial support, to serve at least twice a week in each of the IATA seasons, i.e. according to the submitted request, according to a predetermined flight order from its introduction until the end of the period for which the financial support is granted, except for the week when are the New Year’s day and the religious holidays, Catholic and Orthodox Christmas,

- to develop a plan for promotion and marketing which may be subject to modifications upon the suggestion of the financial support’ provider and

- to submit a Report on its operations to the Ministry of Transport and Communications every six months.

13. The financial support will be granted in accordance with the criteria for ranking the new destinations in the following order:

- period of operation of the destination;

- number of weekly flights;

- attractiveness of the airport, that is, the airport with largest number of passengers served in 2019 according to the Report of the International Council of Airports (ACI-Airport Council International), in the case of a submitted request for the same destination; and

- number of seats offered for sale.

In case of submission of equal requests in accordance with the ranking criteria of the destination, the first-come, first-served principle will be applied when submitting a request for granting financial support.

After the ranking of the new destinations, the Commission calculates the needed funds for each new destination in accordance with the planned costs that the air carrier must have entered in the Operational Plan submitted with the Request and determines the ranking list of new destinations and proposes the selection of beneficiaries of financial support.

14. Any new destination introduced for the period for which the financial support is being granted, which is subject of financial support and will be operated from "Skopje International Airport", must not been served so far by regular air transport in the last two IATA seasons from/to "International Airport Skopje".

15. Each new destination introduced for the period for which the financial support is granted, which is subject of financial support and will be operated from the airport "St. Apostol Pavle" - Ohrid, must not been served so far by regular air transportation in the last two IATA seasons from/to the airport "St. Apostle Pavle" - Ohrid and from "Skopje International Airport".

16. The amount of the financial support referring to a new destination is in the maximum amount of:

- 7 euros in denars equivalent at the middle exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia on the day of invoicing, per departing passenger, for passengers transported from "Skopje International Airport" to the new destination and

- 4.5 euros in denars equivalent according to the middle exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia on the day of invoicing, per departing passenger, for passengers transported from the airport "St. Apostle Pavle" - Ohrid for the new destination.

The amount for the financial support can be reduced if it amounts to more than 50 percent of the amount of the lowest airport fees.

Address:

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