

European Commission opens investigation into public support measures to SATA

The **European Commission** has approved EUR 133 million Portuguese liquidity support to SATA Air Açores but opens an **investigation** into other public support measures.

As of **2017**, the **Autonomous Region of Azores**, which wholly owns SATA, **approved three capital increases** to partly address the company's liquidity shortfalls. The purpose of the investigation is to understand if such capital increases are in line with **EU rules on State Aid to companies in difficulty**. Namely, whether it constitutes State Aid that should have been notified to the Commission and, in such case, if such measures meet the conditions of the 2014 rescue and restructuring guidelines.

The **Portuguese authorities** claim that the capital increases in question **do not constitute State Aid** under EU rules as since the Regional Government of Azores, as the sole shareholder of SATA, **acted as a private investor** operating under market conditions.

Portugal and other interested parties may now **submit comments**.

*The **European Commission** has opened an **investigation** to assess if the three **capital increases** to SATA done by the Autonomous Region of Azores are considered a **State Aid**.*

*The **Portuguese authorities** consider that the capital increases **do not constitute State Aid**, as far as the Regional Government of Azores acted as a **private investor**.*

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