

**DAN AIR is moving all operations from Brasov Airport to Bacau Airport starting from
December
Brasov Airport has postponed the extension of its operating hours until January 15, 2024**

The Romanian airline, DAN AIR, has decided to temporarily suspend flight operations from Ghimbav International Airport in Brasov. This decision comes after representatives of Brasov Airport announced on October 30, 2023, that the extension of operating hours from 12 to 16 hours will only take effect from January 15, 2024. Therefore, the limited schedule, lack of essential airport facilities for winter flights, and the absence of amenities provided to airlines are the reasons prompting DAN AIR to move its flights to Bacau International Airport. Several Romanian and foreign airlines were anticipating the extension of Brasov Airport's operating hours. Following DAN AIR's departure, only one airline will remain at Brasov Airport.

When will DAN AIR flights move from Brasov to Bacau?

DAN AIR began operating from Ghimbav International Airport immediately after its inauguration in June of this year. For two months, it was the only airline operating regular flights from there. On September 1, 2023, DAN AIR provided Brasov Airport with the flight schedule for the winter season, when the extension of operating hours from 12 to 16 was supposed to take effect, as promised by local authorities. To ensure that Brasov Airport would be operational even in reduced visibility conditions, DAN AIR addressed a letter to both local and central authorities, seeking clarifications and confirmations for the new schedule. DAN AIR planned to bring another aircraft to Brasov to increase flight frequency and passenger traffic. The frequency of flights per week was set to increase, along with the number of destinations (adding Paris, Malaga, Rome, Dublin, Tel Aviv, Dubai, and Oslo). The response came on October 30, along with the official announcement of the postponement of the extension until 2024.

"Brasov Airport has demonstrated immense potential and was ranked among the most important airports in Romania. It is a strategic investment of national importance that continues to be neglected. I must mention that DAN AIR has not received and does not receive any support from local authorities to stimulate traffic growth at Brasov Airport, even though many airports in the country offer these passenger incentives/subsidies or other free services. DAN AIR has paid the fees requested by the airport and has never negotiated them, precisely to support the airport's development. Despite the operational characteristics of Brasov Airport, the DAN AIR team was determined to operate in Brasov because we believed in the potential of this city and wanted to support its development. DAN AIR 'subsidized' the existence of Brasov Airport and forced other operators to open regular flights to it as a direct result of our presence. However, like any business, we need predictability. In approximately 5 months, DAN AIR has already lost 2.6 million euros, and the people of Brasov have lost 120 million euros in public funds," said Matt Ian DAVID, CEO - DAN AIR.

Therefore, starting from November 13, the winter schedule proposed for Brasov will be operated according to plan, for the main destinations in Europe, with departures and arrivals from Bacau Airport, and from December 11, operations will be completely moved to Bacau Airport. DAN AIR will operate flights to the following destinations: London, Brussels, Turin, Dublin, Rome, Barcelona, Liverpool and Catania.

Issues of Brasov Airport and Solutions Offered by DAN AIR

Reduced operating schedule - 12 hours due to lack of air traffic controllers

Since its inauguration, Brasov Airport has had a reduced operating schedule of only 12 hours, but the promise to airlines was that this would be extended to 16 hours starting from November 3, 2023. In an official response from ROMATSA to DAN AIR's request, Brasov Airport submitted the application for extending the operating hours on September 27, 2023, but without sending all the

necessary documents for this process. On September 1, 2023, Brasov Airport was already aware of DAN AIR's proposed winter schedule, assuring DAN AIR only verbally or at the meetings organized that the airport's schedule would be extended. The limited operating schedule forced airlines to land at other airports when it was past 7:00 PM, and there was no flexibility from the authorities whenever a request for a few extra minutes was made. This created increased discomfort for passengers, who were forced to lengthen their routes or even miss connections to other flights, resulting in additional costs for bus transfers from Bucharest to Brasov.

DAN AIR has proposed with the following solutions:

- Either relocating the virtual control tower from Arad to Bucharest, where there are more qualified air traffic controllers.
- Or contracting service information providers, which are successfully used in many other airports in Europe, outside the tower operating hours.
- Or waiving the basic regulation regarding the licensing of air traffic controllers under Art. 71 (1) of Regulation (EU) 1139/2018, which would have allowed ROMATSA to expedite the qualification of specialized personnel for operating the virtual control tower.

Lack of certification/approval of airport facilities for operation in reduced visibility conditions

Brasov Airport does not have certification for operating flights in reduced visibility conditions, because the equipment, although some of it exists, has not been properly installed, or the authorization process has not begun for them. Thus, with the onset of the cold season, reduced visibility will further restrict operations at Brasov Airport and effectively reduce its schedule to only 8-9 hours per day, making it impossible to continue operations from this airport. This means that passengers will not have easy access to the Brasov area during the peak winter season, especially around the holidays. Additionally, December will see the most losses as it is one of the most prolific months of the year. The failure to extend the schedule results in losses of over 1.5 million euros. In response to DAN AIR's request, ROMATSA stated "that it has repeatedly requested Brasov Airport since July to 'address technical issues, issues also highlighted by the Romanian Civil Aviation Authority,' so that the airport can be authorized for operations in reduced visibility conditions, but according to the same response, 'as of October 9, 2023, Brasov Airport has not responded to these requests, and the economic operator responsible for technical implementation only responded on October 5, 2023.'"

Solutions for Passengers

Starting from November 13, when flights will be conducted according to the schedule from Ghimbav International Airport, to the main destinations in Europe, with takeoffs and landings from Bacau. Passengers who still wish to fly and use the purchased tickets will benefit from a free transfer provided by DAN AIR on the route Brasov-Bacau and return on the day of the flight. Travelers have been informed of the new changes and have a special form available where they can indicate their preference for these flights. Starting from December 11, the new flight schedule and new destinations departing exclusively from Bacau Airport will come into effect, and this schedule will be communicated later.