

PRESS RELEASE

Travel industry urges the EU to rework the Package Travel Directive before it's too late

Brussels 17 April 2015 – Leading European travel, tourism and passenger representatives have called on European Institutions to postpone a final vote on the Package Travel Directive (PTD) due to take place on 22 April in Brussels because of serious flaws that will be detrimental to European consumers and business alike.

"The current version of the PTD is ineffective, confusing and unenforceable. It adds no consumer protection and its lack of clarity will mislead and confuse travel consumers. The result will be less trust in the online market place. Further, this piece of legislation is detrimental to innovation and growth in the travel industry and threatens to jeopardize the European Digital Single market. Ultimately it will result in a reduction of choice for consumers," stressed Christoph Klenner, Secretary General of ETTSA, adding: "We urge policy makers to pause and take the necessary time to rework the text to properly protect consumers, encourage innovation and choice for EU citizens and visitors to the EU. If policy makers take no action to change this legislation one of Europe's brightest and fastest growing, innovative and dynamic markets will falter at a time Europe can least afford it."

Concerns from travel and tourism businesses have been echoed by the European Passenger Federation (EPF), the leading organisation promoting sustainable mobility and passenger standards on transport services in Europe.

"The EPF is very concerned with the developments in the update of the Package Travel Directive. It will not achieve its aim if it turns away from the reality of today's travel purchases. The EPF would like to stress to lawmakers to remember the reality of the ordinary passengers. Travel consumers want choices, we need transparent protection standards and passenger rights, which are explained in a clear and simple manner. A future-proof Package Travel Directive must respect the freedom of passengers to decide on the level of protection that they want for their travel arrangements", said Josef Schneider, Member of the Management Board, European Passengers' Federation.

Media Enquires

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Supporting organisations

European Passenger Federation (EPF)

European Regions Airline Association (ERA)

European Technology and Travel Services Association (ETTSA)

International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions - (IAAPA Europe)

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Verband Internet Reisevertrieb (VIR)