

Press Release – for immediate release

## **Digital travel sector urges Commission to resolutely address harm done by Google to other verticals, notably travel search**

**Brussels, 27 June 2017** - ETTSA, the European trade association grouping major travel technology companies including online travel agents (OTAs), welcomes the European Commission's first decision in the Google Search antitrust case.

The Commission has concluded that Google has abused its dominant position in each national market for general internet search throughout the European Economic Area, specifically by leveraging its dominance into a separate market (in this case comparison shopping) by promoting its own vertical service while demoting rival vertical services. This behaviour has had a significant negative impact on competition, and it has restricted innovation and hindered start-ups in online sectors across Europe.

Christoph Klenner, Secretary General of ETTSA, stressed: "It is imperative that the Commission now maintains the momentum by requiring Google to cease leveraging its dominant position in general search services into other verticals beyond comparison shopping."

"In particular, Google's conduct is significantly impacting on competition in the travel vertical, the single largest of the vertical search markets, at the expense of consumers and of Google's competitors," he continued.

"We will continue to work with the Commission to ensure that Google ceases to abuse its dominance in the travel sector and to create a level playing field for its competitors while allowing Google to continue to innovate. We are confident that such an outcome will contribute significantly to restoring consumer choice, competition and transparency."

### **Ends**

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### **About ETTSA**

*The European Technology & Travel Services Association (ETTSA) was launched in 2009 to represent and promote the interests of travel technology companies towards the policy-makers, other industry stakeholders, opinion formers, consumer groups and the media. The association, based in Brussels, encourages and supports full transparency, fair competition and consumer choice in the travel distribution chain. ETTSA's members include Amadeus, Booking.com, ebookers, Expedia, Odigeo (and its brands eDreams, GoVoyages, Opodo and Travelink), lastminute.com Group, Sabre, Travelport. Associate members include American Express Global Business Travel, Skyscanner and TripAdvisor. Strategic Partners of ETTSA include Hitrail, OAG, e-Travel, etraveli, Travelgenio, Travix and Tripsta.*