

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ETTSA welcomes Digital Single Market package but cautions European Commission to guard against national fragmentation and barriers to trade for the provision of travel services**

**Brussels, 26 May 2016** – The European Technology and Travel Services Association (ETTSA), welcomes the European Commission’s Digital Single Market package of communications, released on 25 May.

The package addresses what ETTSA considers to be important foundations that will facilitate digital transformation in the European economy. “We appreciate the Commission’s efforts to build a Digital Single Market, countering regulatory fragmentation and trying to bring down barriers to cross-border trading,” said Christoph Klenner, Secretary General of ETTSA.

ETTSA supports the Commission’s commitment to a light touch regulatory approach, which intends to identify and solve specific problems in individual vertical markets, without resorting to blanket regulation.

“It is important that the Commission now work closely with industry to study the different value chains and identify what is the optimal mix of existing legislation, guidance, enforcement, and possibly new or revised regulation,” said Mr Klenner.

“The Digital Single Market could be a turning point in Europe’s regulatory approach to the digital world,” said Mr Klenner. “The proliferation of national legislation that counters the objectives of the Digital Single Market is harmful to the development of Europe’s digital industry. Europe’s internal market can only work if there is regulatory coordination and adherence to EU regulatory principles. The package the Commission has presented must be leveraged to achieve this,” Mr Klenner concluded.

### **About ETTSA**

The European Technology and Travel Services Association (ETTSA) was launched in 2009 to represent and promote the interests of global distribution systems (GDSs) and travel distributors and comparison websites, towards the industry, policy-makers, opinion formers, consumer groups and all other relevant European stakeholders. 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, ebookers, Expedia, Odigeo (and its brands eDreams, GoVoyages, Opodo and Travelink), Sabre, Travelport. Associate members include, SkyScanner and TripAdvisor. ATPCO and OAG are Supporting Partners of ETTSA.