



eu travel tech



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Travel and tourism industry calls on MEPs to back balanced package travel rules

The European travel and tourism industry welcomes the European Parliament's ongoing efforts to revise the Package Travel Directive (PTD) and thanks the Members of IMCO Committee's for their support to find the right balance between robust consumer protection and a thriving, competitive travel and tourism sector.

Whether it's a budget-conscious family planning its summer holiday in advance or an elderly couple traveling in the off-season, the Package Travel Directive (PTD) must set out clear and accessible rules that ensure all travellers can fully benefit from the protections of package travel. These rules should encourage innovation, not add unnecessary bureaucracy that could create difficulties and legal uncertainties for both consumers and the tourism and travel industry.

As MEPs discuss compromise proposals, the whole travel and tourism sector recognises a valuable opportunity to modernise the EU Package Travel Directive to reflect current market realities. A simplified, future-ready framework can bolster traveller confidence and support the continued growth of Europe's diverse tourism ecosystem.

Industry stakeholders appreciate the constructive approach adopted by many policymakers who acknowledged in their amendment proposals the need for clear and simplified rules. Notably, provisions supporting balanced approaches to prepayments and a clearer definition of what constitutes a package are essential to ensure that the revised Directive is effective and proportionate in real-world applications.

However, the sector expresses concern over certain proposals that could inadvertently hinder the package travel model. For instance, restricting prepayments or broadening the "package" definition to include loosely connected bookings within arbitrary timeframes, e.g., 3 or 24 hours, may create legal uncertainty, limit consumer choice, and impose disproportionate burdens on small and medium-sized enterprises, which constitute most of travel and tourism businesses.

To establish a framework that is both principled and practical, the industry recommends two key improvements:

1. **Pre-payments** are essential for the financial management of the travel and tourism value chain. Restricting them would disrupt established business models, affect liquidity, limit investment, and ultimately reduce choice and value for consumers, in particular budget sensitive travellers.
2. **Simplify the scope of "packages"**, ensuring the definition applies only to deliberately combined services, not to independent bookings made within fixed timeframes.

The industry remains committed to engaging in constructive dialogue with EU institutions to help shape a final Directive that is practical, proportionate, and future-ready, supporting both consumer trust and Europe's leadership in sustainable and high-quality tourism.

About the Travel and Tourism Associations

ECTAA represents the interests of 80.000 travel agents and tour operators in Europe, which provide consultancy and sell transport, accommodation, leisure and other tourism services as well as combined products to leisure and business customers.

eu travel tech represents the interests of travel technology companies and uses its position at the centre of the travel and tourism sector to promote a consumer-driven, innovative, and competitive industry that is transparent and sustainable. Our membership includes Global Distribution Systems (GDSs), Online Travel Agencies (OTAs), Travel Management Companies (TMCs) in business travel, and metasearch sites.

CLIA, Cruise Lines International Association, unites the global cruise community, including prestigious ocean, river, and specialty lines, maritime leaders, ports, destinations, shipyards, and the largest network of cruise travel professionals.

HOTREC, the umbrella association for the European hospitality industry, serves as the voice of Europe's hotels, restaurants, bars and cafés, uniting 47 member associations across 36 countries. HOTREC represents 2 million businesses supporting over 10 million jobs, mostly SMEs and micro-enterprises.

IAAPA is the leading global association for the attractions industry. Rooted in Europe's rich heritage, IAAPA members represent a diverse ecosystem of theme parks, water parks, family entertainment centres, zoos, aquariums, supported by a strong network of manufacturers and suppliers. The IAAPA office in Brussels represents members who generate more than € 109 billion in annual economic impact within the EU and support over 737,000 jobs.

RURALTOUR, the European Federation of Rural Tourism, is the professional tourism trade organisation representing a sector with an estimated 500.000 micro and nano enterprises and about 6 million bed places. It includes 28 professional and trade organisations from 25 European countries. The represented services include hospitality from rural Bed & Breakfast and self-catering, short term rentals in private homes or farms, to small family-run rural hotels or guesthouses, as well as rural gastronomy and active tourism services.