

Watch out for IATA's new and ambitious project – **New Distribution Capability** - which is meant to revolutionise distribution of air tickets and ancillary services in all channels, including through travel agents. The project aims at enabling airlines to distribute personalised products and more ancillary services, in the framework of a single standard for all distribution channels. A salient point of the project is that airlines would no longer file fares, but would instead provide a quote/offer after receiving a specific request and depending on the requestor. The project foresees besides bundling of air tickets with other travel services. It also deals with the location of customer information and PNR. The potential impacts of this project need to be carefully analysed, including with regard to EU legislation. ECTAA will of course monitor this project very closely and would welcome travel agent experts willing to participate to the IATA stakeholder working group set up to this effect.

Isabelle Leroy

For more details, see e-mail sent on 10 September

IATA: PAPGJC suggests improvements to global financial criteria proposal

During the PAPGJC meeting on 4 September, the airlines' and travel agents' representatives reviewed the proposal for global financial criteria and agreed unanimously on a number of changes to be brought to the proposal, among other making it more clear that the criteria are not binding and making them less stringent. The revised proposal should in principle be included in the 2nd transmittal of the PAConf agenda.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 12 September

IATA: PAConf agenda - 1st transmittal

In addition to the proposal for global financial criteria, the agenda of the PAConf meeting scheduled on 15-17 October includes a proposal to provide IATA with wider possibilities to suspend an airline from BSP, proposal to make GDSs liable when tickets are issued whereas the agent does not hold the airline's ticketing authority or when IATA asked to restrict the agent's ticket issuance, proposal to review agent's security requirements, proposal to ensure more flexibility for IATA to apply local criteria on financial documentation.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 17 August

Air Transport: Council starts to tackle slot allocation rules

The Council has started to review the slot allocation Regulation proposal. Members have been invited to alert their governments, that changes to the existing definition of slot series and the slot utilisation threshold will have devastating effects on leisure travel and tourist destinations. ECTAA has written to the Cypriote Council Presidency and the Rapporteurs of the EP.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 31 August

Air Transport: Amendment calling for protection against airline failures

Following previous action of ECTAA Members with regard to the EP own-initiative report on 20 main concerns of European citizens and businesses within the Single Market, the TRAN Committee opinion includes an amendment calling for a legislative proposal to protect passengers in case of airline insolvency. Members are now invited to ask their MEPs in the responsible IMCO Committee to support the amendment. The vote in IMCO will take place on 25 September.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 12 September with model letter

Transport: Passenger rights generate a lot of interest from MEPs

234 amendments were tabled to the draft own-initiative report of the EP on passenger rights in all modes of transport. Members are encouraged to write to their MEPs to obtain support for the good amendments and object those that are unfavourable to the trade.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 27 August with model letter

Air Transport: ABTA Pre-Notification Guidance to facilitate PRM travelling

ABTA has kindly offered to share its *Pre-Notification Guidance - for Supporting Passengers with Reduced Mobility*, which was drafted jointly by the UK CAA, industry and disability representatives. The guidance document aims to give information and advice for travel companies and airports on how to provide the optimal experience for passengers who require assistance at the airport.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 23 August

Rail Transport: Working towards an efficient and cost-effective end-to-end rail distribution

Members have expressed support for ECTAA's participation in a joint railway undertaking-ticket vendor project aimed at establishing specifications for the implementation of an innovative rail distribution landscape. It builds on the work achieved in the frame of TAP TSI phase 1 implementation and the Full Service Model.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 21 August and 13 September

Package Travel Directive: The Commission is keeping the industry in suspense

The Commission is still reflecting on a number of options for the revision of the package travel Directive. But the impact assessment on the review should be presented to the Impact Assessment Board by end of October and beginning of 2013 the proposal should be adopted.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 27 August 2012

Professional Qualifications: Amendments to the rules for temporary provision of services

The Rapporteur in charge of the Directive proposal amending Directive 2005/36 on the recognition of professional qualifications has presented her draft report. Members have been invited to review the amendments proposed and assess in particular their impact on tour guides. Deadline is 18 September.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 10 September or consult the [EP draft report](#)

Standardisation: Agreement on the European standardisation system in sight

A compromise text has been drafted by the Council Presidency for endorsement by the Council and the EP. Despite ECTAA's opposition, services are included in the scope but the text contains a number of improvements in terms of stakeholder consultation and participation in the standardisation process.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 29 August or consult [compromise text](#)

Tourism: Safety first! - ABTA's Tourism Accommodation Safety Campaign

ABTA has invited ECTAA Members to join the Tourism Accommodation Safety Campaign. ABTA feels strongly that safety should not be left to voluntary agreements and initiatives, the compliance with which is difficult to check by tour operators, and thus regulation is the best long-term solution to resolving the variations in tourism accommodation safety across Europe.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 27 July

Tourism: ECTAA's response to consultation on fire safety in hotels

ECTAA has been invited to respond to a number of outstanding questions in relation to updating the Council Recommendation 86/666/EEC on fire safety in existing hotels by replacing the technical annex with HOTREC's fire safety MBS (Management, Building and Systems) methodology. ECTAA has maintained its existing position on fire safety in hotels, not calling for binding legislation.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 7 September 2012

Tourism: Best Environmental Management Practices for tour operators

The *EMAS Reference Document on Best Environmental Management Practice for the Tourism Sector* contains best environmental management practices, sector-specific environmental performance indicators and benchmarks of excellence and rating systems identifying environmental performance levels. The reference document covers also best practices for tour operators.

For more details, see e-mail sent on 29 August or consult the [EMAS Reference Document](#)

Other News in Brief

- [European Tourism Day 2012, 27 September in Brussels: Seasonality - Maritime and coastal tourism](#)

Calendar of ECTAA meetings

18 September 2012	Joint Air Matters Committee & Technology Working Group, Brussels
5 October 2012	Fiscal Committee, Amsterdam
18 October 2012	Destination and Sustainability Committee, Brussels
23 October 2012	Tour Operator Committee, Brussels
20 November 2012 - to be confirmed	Incoming Tourism Working Group, Brussels
29-30 November 2012	ECTAA bi-annual meeting, Brussels