

..in five minutes..

June – July 2014

The new European Parliament is in place. The composition of the different European Parliament Committees and the names of the chair and vice-chairs are known now. So are the political group's coordinators of the different European Parliament Committees. They are in charge of their political group's coordination in each Committee and have an influence in the attribution of dossiers. The European Parliament will break for the summer and come back in September. If you have not yet contacted your MEPs, you can still do so after the summer and use ECTAA's information sheet on the importance of Europe's tourism and the main priorities in terms of legislative initiatives (see e-mails sent on 2 June and 10 July).

The ECTAA office being closed from 4 to 15 August, we wish you all a nice summer break!

The ECTAA staff

Package Travel Directive: Italian Council Presidency takes over and goes full steam ahead

The Italian Council Presidency is analysing different possible scenarios regarding the scope. It is also considering a number of amendments aimed at clarifying provisions. Numerous suggestions made by ECTAA are included. ECTAA Members have been invited to inform the Secretariat about their government's position.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 16 July 2014

Insurance Mediation: Steps in the right direction

The Council is discussing a compromise common position, which may open the way for exemption of travel insurances. A group of Member States are in favour of the exclusion of travel insurance from the scope of the Directive, while another group of Member States and the Commission still hold on to their inclusion. Members are invited to continue pushing for the exclusion of travel insurance mediation and the amendment of article 1 2) (f) (600€ threshold).

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 2 July 2014

Air transport: Commission drops complaint against IATA's PaxIS

In September 2009, ECTAA and GEBTA submitted a complaint to the European Commission against IATA as the identification of travel agents in airline marketing, booking and sales data without travel agents' consent is infringing the CRS Code of Conduct. Nearly 5 years onwards, the Commission announced that there are insufficient grounds for acting on the complaint. ECTAA/GEBTA submitted preliminary comments to the Commission in this respect and invited Members for additional input.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 15 July 2014

Air transport: ECTAA makes a submission of objections to the US DoT regarding NDC

Following the DoT's decision to tentatively approve Resolution 787 and NDC, ECTAA wrote to the DoT not to approve the Resolution in its current format. ECTAA recommends the adoption of the Resolution as recommended practice, waiving its binding nature for IATA Members' airlines and travel agents. ECTAA considers that the implementation of Resolution 787 still raises numerous privacy issues and will seriously affect competition between airlines.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 10 and 16 June 2014

Air Transport: No agreement on air passenger rights proposal under Greek Council Presidency

Member States have been unable to reach agreement on a common approach on the revision of the air passenger rights legislation expected by end of the Greek Council Presidency. The Transport Council scheduled on 5 June only adopted a progress report.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 4 June

Data protection: One-to-one meetings with Data Protection Attachés

ECTAA has started meeting with the Data Protection Attachés of a number of Member States in order to raise concerns in respect of the requirement of a Data Protection Officer in the frame of the data protection legislation reform. ECTAA also raised data protection issues in relation to NDC. Members were invited to raise these concerns with their national Data Protection Authorities.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 2, 10 and 24 July 2014

Data protection: ECTAA meets with the European Data Protection Supervisor

ECTAA met with European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) representatives in order to raise data protection concerns in relation with the NDC project. On suggestion of the EDPS, ECTAA submitted comments on the EDPS Preliminary Opinion "Privacy and competitiveness in the age of big data".

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 20 June and 25 July 2014

Data protection: Legal framework for the transfer of PNR data to Canada sorted out

On 25 June 2014, the EU and Canada signed a new agreement on the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data by air carriers to the Canadian competent authorities. The agreement has yet to be approved by the European Parliament. This follows the agreements signed between the EU and the US as well as Australia.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 30 June 2014

Data protection: Google follows-up on the ECoJ decision

Following the ECoJ decision in the Google case, which rules that people have a right to request that years-old personal information that is no longer relevant be removed from Internet search results, Google launched an online form giving European users a chance to get personal information about themselves removed from search results.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 30 June 2014 or consult the [form](#)

Taxation: Member States are coming under pressure to change their TOMS legislation

The Commission has sent letters of formal notice to some Member States requesting them to make their national VAT legislation compliant with the ECoJ decision in the TOMS cases. Members should convince their Ministry of Finance to hold off as long as possible changes to national legislation and seek their support to push the Commission for a new legislative proposal revising the EU TOMS.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 24 July 2014

Taxation: Commission goes ahead with plans to reform VAT rules for passenger transport services

As part of its impact assessment, the Commission has commissioned a study on the impact of the current VAT rules for passenger services and the likely effects of alternative VAT regimes in order to assist the Commission in making policy choices. 10 scenarios of possible changes are considered, consisting of changes to VAT rates and other VAT rules (e.g. place of supply of services). A legislative proposal is however not yet foreseen for 2014.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 10 July 2014

Health and safety: Green Paper on Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services published

The Commission published the long announced Green Paper on the Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services. The aim is to assess whether existing tools are adequate to respond to

potential risks in the tourism sector and what action would most effectively improve consumer safety. Members are invited to review the 42 questions and provide their input by 3 October.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 23 July 2014 or consult the [Green Paper](#) and its [Annex](#)

Visa package: Focus on the economic impact of visa facilitation

As can be expected, Member States did not express an overwhelming enthusiasm for the visa package. ECTAA had the opportunity to submit amendments to the preliminary draft opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee. The latter stress the economic importance of visa facilitation. Members can use a visual factsheet prepared by the Secretariat on the importance of tourism and the benefits accruing to Europe's economy from visa facilitation.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 25 June and 17 July 2014

Visa: Positive measures to facilitate visas for India

The Indian government is about to introduce a number of positive measures to facilitate visas for foreigners wishing to travel to India, including extending visa on arrival (VoA) to 40 countries, establishing an online application system for visas and facilitating visa on arrival for pensioners and those attending conferences. However there are some issues / delays in implementing the measures.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 30 June 2014

Immigration rules: South Africa introduces new immigration rules

As from 1 October 2014 all children under the age of 18 travelling to / from / within South Africa will require an unabridged birth certificate and will need additional documents if they are travelling with one parent only or a guardian. ECTAA and WTAAA raised serious concerns to the South African authorities and Members have been invited to report on the likely impact of such measures.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 24, 25 and 30 June

Standards: ISO is proposing to standardise cruise and car rental services

ISO has opened a vote on two new standardisation projects on car rental and cruise services on the proposal of ANEC, the European consumer voice in standardisation. Members are invited to share their views on these standardisation projects and to communicate to their national standardisation body the ECTAA position on other standardisation projects that may soon be opened for vote.

For more details, please see e-mails sent on 26 June and 24 July 2014

Rail distribution: Is FSM going in the right direction?

The industry initiative 'Full Service Model' has delivered its first milestone: an overview document providing definitions of basic concepts on which FSM will be built and functional specifications of a possible solution. Members have been invited to comment on (i) the proposed distribution model, which will create distribution capabilities for large 'distributors' and (ii) whether they can propose an expert for the FSM Work Stream 'Legal and Contractual Considerations'.

For more details, please see e-mail sent on 9 July 2014

Other News in Brief

- [European Tourism in 2014: Trends & Prospects](#), European Travel Commission
- [The Cruise Industry Economic Contribution Report](#), CLIA Europe
- [UNWTO World Tourism Barometer - Volume 12](#), June 2014

Calendar of ECTAA meetings

16 September 2014	Joint Air Matters Committee & Technology Working Group, Brussels
24 September 2014	Fiscal Committee, Munich
October 2014 (date tbc)	Joint Legal Committee & Tour Operators Committee, Brussels

November 2014 (date tbc)	Destination, Incoming Tourism & Sustainability Committee, Brussels
6-8 November 2014	2 nd Worldwide Summit of Presidents of Travel Agencies Associations, Zagreb
27-28 November 2014	ECTAA bi-annual meeting, Tallinn

EU consultations / ECTAA surveys

- ECTAA questionnaire: Member States position on PTD, sent on 16 July and open until 30 August
- [Commission questionnaire on the remaining obstacles to a fully functioning Single Market for services](#), open until 15 November 2014
- [Green Paper on Safety of Tourism Accommodation Services](#), deadline to be announced