



Tony John Will Steer ETOA Transport Policy

20th October 2006

The European Tour Operators Association (ETOA) today announced that Tony John is taking the wheel as its new Head of Transport, with responsibility for representing the views of the inbound tour operating industry on all transport matters and for giving advice on new EU regulations coming in to force in 2007.



The new regulations will cause the most radical changes to coach touring for decades, as they make stringent stipulations about rest periods that must be taken by coach drivers, who will no longer be able to carry over breaks to the start or end of a tour. The new rules will also complicate the scheduling of tours and will render many popular itineraries more expensive or in some cases no longer viable.

2007 will also see the introduction of new digital tachographs that will make it virtually impossible for drivers or operators of coaches to bend the rules on drivers' hours.

Prior to joining ETOA, Tony managed one of the largest fleets of tourist vehicles in Europe. He started his career at the incoming operator, Global, in mid 1950s, and worked there on all aspects of European Tours for the next thirty years. He then joined Insight International, and, after it was bought by the Travel Corporation, he continued with the new company, Tracoin Services, as Director of Transport.

Tom Jenkins, Executive Director, ETOA, said: *"The industry is looking at a great deal of upheaval and our members will need guidance from an experienced heavyweight. In Tony we have recruited someone who has done everything there is to be done in coach tours. He brings an unparalleled network of contacts and European-wide expertise to the Association. We are particularly pleased that he has a commanding knowledge of all the technical issues and also an in-depth understanding of how the wider industry works."*

Tony John said: *"I have been involved with ETOA since it started in 1989. I look forward to extolling these benefits with the many friends I have made in the coach touring industry."*

Tony replaces Allan Edmondson, who has left to organize ground transportation arrangements for London 2012.

Tom Jenkins said *"Over the last five years Allan brought a unique blend of enthusiasm and knowledge to ETOA. We are delighted that he has found an important role in the build up to the Olympics."*

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Further Information

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About ETOA

Since its foundation in 1989, ETOA has grown exponentially to include over 400 member organisations, of which over 100 are Tour Operators. Collectively, ETOA represents over €6 billion spending on accommodation and travel services annually.



European Tour Operators Association

ETOA provides representation at the European government level for companies that bring tourists to Europe. The Association promotes greater awareness of the benefits provided by the group travel industry in Europe - particularly increased income and employment. ETOA also influences European tourism policy and legislation.

Areas of specific activity include:

- Promoting Europe as a tourism destination
- Establishing codes of conduct and guidelines for its members
- Establishing commercial opportunities between buyers and sellers
- Working with other travel & tourism associations to raise the industry's profile

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