



21 May 2020

WEEKLY BULLETIN

The [European Tourism Manifesto](#), of which ETOA is a founding signatory and steering committee member, has issued its [response](#) to the EU proposals for tourism's recovery. Our industry's significance is fully recognised: the challenge now is to move from initial emergency response to sustained sectoral support as a return to freedom of movement begins.

European borders will open, but gradually. A quick look at the map and list of temporary border controls (see [EU section](#) of our resources page) shows that temporary restrictions remain in place across Europe. Discussions about blanket quarantine measures are paralysing planning and suppressing demand. But there are positive signs: on Monday, 11 Schengen Area states (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Spain, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Austria and Slovenia) issued a [joint declaration](#) strongly supporting EU proposals for a progressive and coordinating lifting of border controls. Following an EU Tourism Ministerial meeting on 19th May, it is likely that progress will continue through bilateral deals between countries within the Schengen zone. As yet, there is no talk of the external Schengen border being largely open to all until September at the earliest.

New Normal or Next Normal? At an OECD digital skills discussion on 19th May, the extent of the possible transformation of the industry was explored. Portugal reported strong investment in digital training and app development. Switzerland, a country with a highly integrated and successful approach to tourism planning, suggested a probable business failure rate of 20% in the sector, with urban tourism more affected than alpine. The requirement to reinvent what tourism is, what patterns will emerge and how the sector will be structured is a hot topic across the online video-conferencing world. What will travellers looking for a seamless, safe and contactless experience want to buy? On a practical level, our [online CityFair](#) in July 2020 is seeing strong interest from operators looking for new product, and to understand what is happening in destination.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

ETOA - Insight, Action and Resources



More

The [COVID-19 resources page](#) is reviewed and updated regularly with notifications on which sections updated at the top of the page. Recent updates include:

- [French Government tourism recovery plan](#) announced on 14 May. The plan includes details of new financial support available and launch of [support website for tourism businesses](#) as well as proposed re-opening time frame.

We note governments across Europe have started to announce plans to lift border restrictions. Within the Schengen area, border restrictions between Schengen countries are expected to be lifted first. For further information on the lifting of travel restrictions and other national containment measures please see:

- [European Union](#) – which contains an [overview \(map and dashboard\)](#) of EU and a few non-EU European countries. In addition, a list of the temporary border controls between Schengen countries can be found [here](#).
- [OECD](#) has published a map of current travel restrictions worldwide.
- [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#) has also published a map of current travel restrictions worldwide including which persons are currently permitted to enter a country.

Members are also advised to check the national government's foreign affairs page for the latest information on any restrictions leaving and entering each country including any potential quarantine. We have listed all EEA countries on our [COVID-19 resources page](#). For travel to the UK, please note the quarantine policy has yet to be formally approved and an announcement is expected soon.

ETOA
Webinar

ETOA's previous webinars can be reviewed [here](#). Future events will include: destination and regional product development - how public and private sectors can

collaborate to stimulate and support recovery; origin markets – what are operators and recent research telling us about travel intentions?

ETOA's current lobbying priorities remain:

- Access to liquidity, especially for SMEs
- Resolution to cancellation and refund policies
- Better practical information to enable future planning
- Coordination in standards for food, accommodation, transport systems under any new public health guidelines

City Fair 2020 | Online B2B meetings



City Fair is the opportunity to lay the foundations for the return of travel clients. We bring together selected tourism buyers, product developers and destination managers in a full day of B2B online meetings dedicated to rethinking tourism strategy. [Find out more.](#)

Members' Features

On our [Members' Features page](#) you can find free-of-charge ETOA Member content to support business and encourage stuck-at-home travellers to keep destinations in mind, offering virtual visits, free online events and inspiration for future holidays. New content include **Visit Luxembourg's** Inspiring Travel Stories and **Titanic Belfast's** Virtual tours.

Keep the ideas coming!



Members' Features

Tackling the Impact of COVID-19 Together

[Contact us to be featured](#)