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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Tourism's recovery: operational obstacles. ETOA's operators and intermediaries have demand, but some report that *'we can't get a price and we can't place business.'* For long-haul travel, current border controls do not affect the need to plan ahead for 2021, and their clients have options. Europe's supply chain has started to welcome new business, but it is a long way from providing adequate supply to drive B2B sales. Meanwhile, continued confusion as to the practical implementation of social distancing, and when it should apply, is an obstacle to business. For example, how many people are allowed on a coach? For more on this, see our latest [Policy Impact Report](#).

Border controls are widely seen as increasingly capricious, ranging from entry based on cases per thousand in traveller's country of residence, to certification of a recent Covid-19-negative test to nights spent in country of departure. Short-notice imposition of new restrictions apply to residents, but not obviously to visitors already in destination; this is potentially highly problematic, not least because the risk of local measures to combat local spikes in infection rate will remain.

ETOA Communications For our members, please note that we will circulate the ['Destination and Policy Update'](#) mid-August, and will pause our weekly bulletins during that month. On 30th July we will distribute the August newsletter, which will include a summary of obstacles to recovery that require more coordinated management and communication. Please continue to report these issues to policy@etoa.org.

Tourism's recovery: a risky business? Last week's ECTAA / ETOA webinar with experts from the insurance and financial protection industry is now available [here](#). Our current expectation is that the European Commission's assessment on the implementation of the 2015 Package Travel Directive, which would normally have been due in January 2021, will be delayed to take into account the exceptional circumstances of 2020. This represents an opportunity to ensure industry voice is heard and a new framework proposed. Short-term, it may be possible to argue for very targeted reform such as a change to the 14-day refund deadline in exceptional circumstances. But it is the insurance market in conjunction with national protection mechanisms which will need to develop rapidly to accommodate 'new normal'

conditions, and provide sufficient options to both business and consumer to restore confidence and allow business continuity without prohibitive cost.

Will governments respond? As reported last week, Germany is said to be considering a state-backed protection mechanism such as operates in the Netherlands. The UK ministry responsible for tourism, DCMS, is due to publish an 84 page report today on the impact of Covid-19 on the creative industries, sport and tourism. The problem of insurance for performing arts is recognised, with mention of state funded indemnity schemes as were introduced in response to terrorism and floods. The topic is not addressed at all in respect of tourism. ETOA will continue to follow this issue closely and argue for support and reform.



The [COVID-19 resources page](#) is reviewed and updated regularly with notifications on which sections updated at the top of the page. To access this page requires members to login. If you are having difficulties please contact info@etoa.org. Members with specific questions on the impact of COVID-19 please continue to [contact us](#). Recent updates include:

- The European Council has reviewed and updated its [recommended list of non-EU countries](#) that member states should lift travel restrictions for at the [Schengen external border](#). Montenegro and Serbia have been removed otherwise it is the same list of countries as 30 June 2020. The list is reviewed every two weeks. Final decision on border entry remains a matter of national competence. National government's foreign affairs pages (which can be found on our [COVID-19 resources page](#)) are communicating which recommended countries have been adopted in their country.
- The Irish Government has agreed a "[green list](#)" of countries from where travellers do not have to quarantine on arrival into Ireland. This list will be reviewed every two weeks. A separate "[travel corridors](#)" list applies for Northern Ireland.
- Local lockdown measures announced by the Generalitat de Catalonia on 17 July which includes Barcelona and the surrounding area have been added to the [Spain section](#).

City Fair 2020 was held online on Monday 20th July, ETOA's first ever online event – 305 delegates participated in over 8,000 pre-scheduled meetings. Buyers included purchasing managers from China, USA and Europe - they met with suppliers from cities and regions from across Europe. Ideally placed in a vital moment in Europe's

tourism recovery, this year's City Fair was an opportunity to lay the foundations for the return to business.

The success of the first online event paves the way for the hybrid delivery of **Global European Marketplace 2020**, taking place on 30th October 2020. Delegates can attend in person in London or join meetings online – [book now](#) to claim the Early Bird Rate until 31st July.



During the autumn ETOA is also delivering online workshops focused on [Catalonia](#), Switzerland and Paris - please [get in touch](#) for more information.

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



On our [Members' Features page](#) we continue to showcase innovation and free-of-charge content from ETOA's members, especially DMOs. [Contact us](#) if you would like to be featured.

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