



November 2020

NEWSLETTER

This month's edition includes:

- EU pushes for faster progress on testing
- Sustainability
- ETOA crisis-related lobbying
- Working for recovery
- ETOA Insight Hub
- Covid-19 operating guidelines
- Travel restrictions
- Brexit update
- Members' features



EU pushes for faster progress on testing. Yesterday, the European Commission announced more actions to help limit the spread of coronavirus, including facilitation of safe travel. Full press release [here](#). The good news is that the urgency of increasing access to fast testing and related data sharing are recognised as top priorities. Steps towards 'More Europe' in the form of a European Health Union will be presented next month. The communiqué is silent on the need to reduce the use of quarantine as a routine method of control. While improved testing and eventual vaccination will help, the risk of quarantine remains the biggest deterrent to travel.

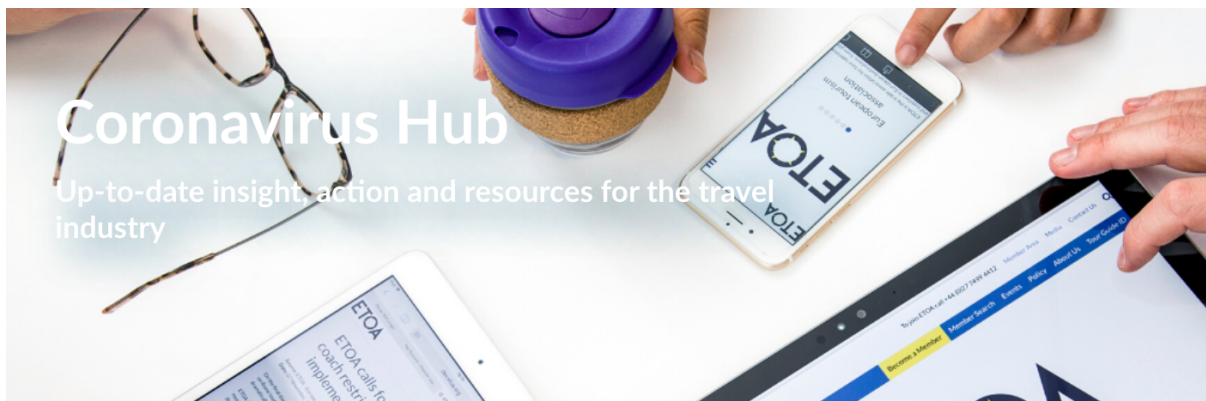
For more detailed commentary, see under **Travel Restrictions** below.

Sustainability must now be understood to include resilience to external stress such as the current pandemic. ETOA will be participating in two events in November, run by the UN's environment agency UNEP and the OECD, which link economic recovery with both climate and public health. This follows a recent ETOA [webinar on climate action](#). The common thread is mutual interest. Whether it is destinations seeking social sustainability, or global climate reduction targets, agreeing what 'good' looks like is fundamental to tourism's strategic recovery plans. There will be argument, there must be proper consultation and public-private sector collaboration.

For upcoming UNEP event on 9th November 'Transforming tourism for a resilient and sustainable post Covid world, please click [here](#). For more on OECD work on sustainable recovery for tourism, click [here](#).

ETOA crisis-related lobbying: our priorities remain continued support so the sector can survive 'three winters'; better coordination of public policy on borders and public health measures; reform of financial protection frameworks. On the last point, we note that companies have started to include insurance covering quarantine and other foreseeable risks. The desirability of this came up in our [Risky Business](#) webinar in July. In principle, consumer insurance, as an ancillary product, may not be compulsorily bundled into a package in the EU, but these recent developments suggest that consumer demand and business response are once again ahead of the regulators: it is hard to see consumer detriment in a product that provides peace of mind. More information [here](#) (German only). For more information on ETOA's policy activity, click [here](#).

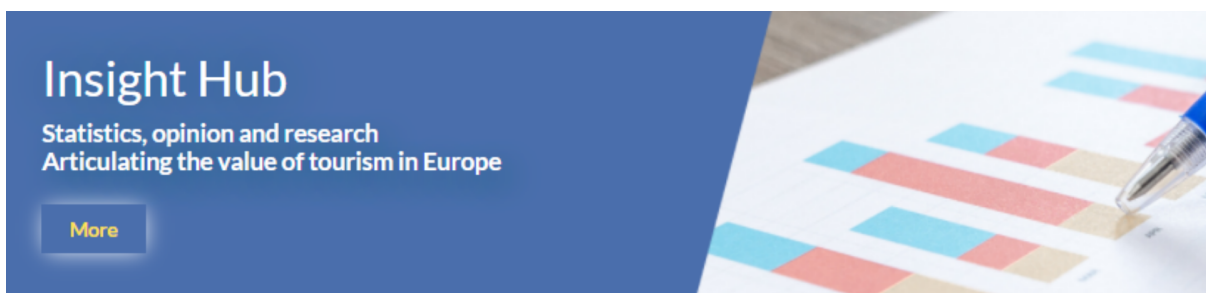
Working for recovery Next month's newsletter will focus on an unprecedented range of networking events in the first part of 2021 to support recovery, explore how our website can develop awareness of ETOA's diverse community of suppliers, and showcase our biggest asset: a growing network of international buyers. The business environment is changing fast as companies reorganise and review their offer to respond to demand once cross-border travel is more practical. ETOA has also developed a creative response to unprecedented circumstances: intermediaries selling European product will never have a better opportunity to join us. For more information, please [contact us](#).



ETOA Insight Hub

We have recently added new pieces to the Insight Hub. Members can access an update to the [USTOA member survey](#) on advance bookings with American tour operators, the [UNWTO brochure on measuring sustainable tourism](#) and the [ETC Handbook](#) on Covid-19 recovery for National Tourism Organisations.

There is also a piece that all Insight Hub visitors can access from one of our members, Tiqets. It is their [Tourism Trends 2020 Report](#): The European Traveller's Mindset Post-COVID. It showcases the results from a survey of 300 respondents spread across five countries looking at travel intentions for the remainder of 2020 and what museums and attractions can do to attract visitors back.



Covid-19 operating guidelines

Lack of coordination in safety protocols and legal restrictions continues to present a major challenge to the tourism industry. While all must adhere to the rules, ambiguity about 'guidelines' and 'recommendations' has led to a complex operating environment making planning near impossible for operators. The greater the convergence in safety protocols, the faster confidence will return.

This new [member-only page](#) provides access to a library of guidelines from the industry for Covid-related risk management that businesses can consult and adapt, taking into account their clients, product and premises. We feature both trade association and businesses' own guidelines. The guidelines are divided by sector to take into account specific circumstances and requirements.

Operational guidelines

Helping our members adopt new measures

Travel restrictions

European Union: The EU published their latest [recommendation](#) on 28 October to help member states co-ordinate travel restrictions. The latest recommendation and set of measures include:

- A common quarantine approach (i.e. how many days) and testing protocol being developed by EASA and ECDC
- A common EU digital Passenger Locator Form to be used by member states (piloted next month)
- A mobile app for the [Re-Open EU](#) website (to be launched next month) which includes real time information provided by member states and Schengen associated countries on health measures and travel restrictions

This follows the EU [recommendation](#) adopted by member states on 13 October on common health criteria ('traffic light system'). The ECDC has published the maps for EEA countries [here](#) (updated on a weekly basis). Border restrictions remain a matter of competence for national governments but the EU recommend that there should be no border restrictions for travellers arriving from 'green' regions.

For travel to the EU from non-EU countries (excluding UK who are following EU rules during Brexit transition period), the EU recommend travel restrictions are lifted for certain countries (reviewed every two weeks) and the latest list can be found [here](#).

United Kingdom: [The Global Travel Taskforce](#) formed of cross-government departments is expected to report to the UK Prime Minister shortly with recommendations on how a testing regime to reduce the 14 day quarantine period can be implemented and other non-testing measures to restore travel to the UK. Consultation took place with industry associations last week including ETOA. In the meantime, the 14 day quarantine period for travellers remains in effect unless exempt. Travel corridor countries are reviewed weekly. For the latest on restrictions within the UK, please see [here](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

ETOA - Insight, Action and Resources

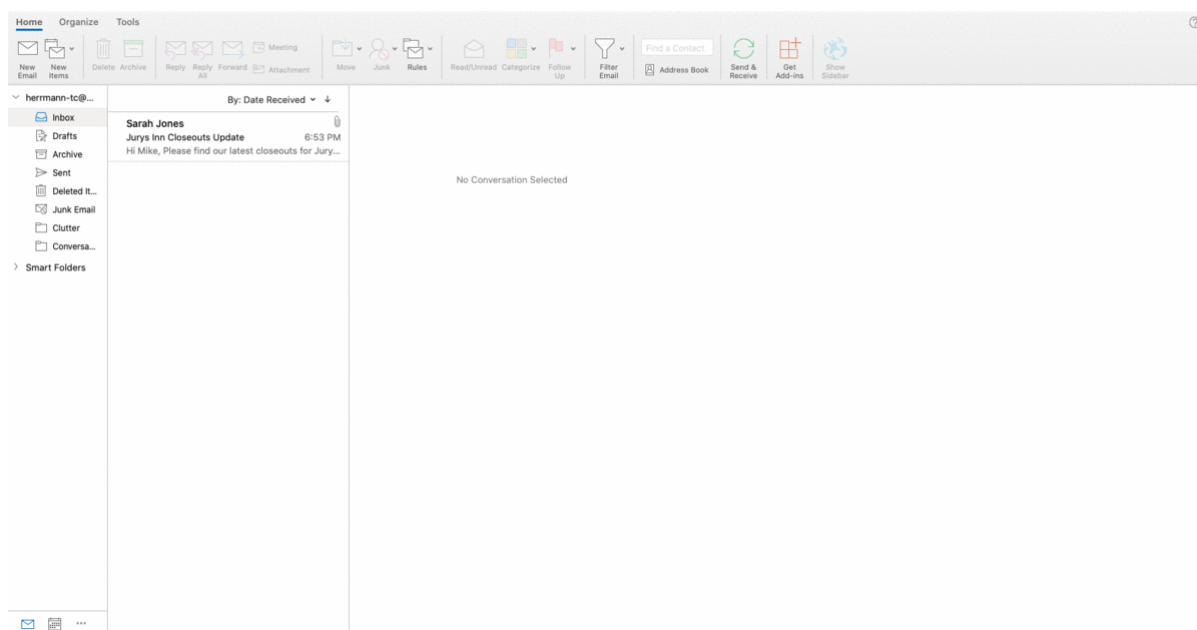
[More](#)



Brexit update

The EU and UK Government are continuing negotiations on the future trading relationship that will take effect from 1 January 2021 following the EU Council meeting on 15 October. A deadline to conclude hasn't been set but likely in the coming days. Regardless of any agreement changes will occur after the transition period, in particular the practice of 'free movement' (a core principle of the EU) will end for UK nationals in the EU (except in Ireland) and EU nationals in the UK (except for Irish and EU nationals on the EU Settlement Scheme). This will affect border arrangements for visitors and workers. Reciprocal healthcare arrangements for visitors is being discussed as part of the trade negotiations. Please see our [Brexit page](#) for further information. **We are planning to host a webinar on Thursday 19th November at 14.00 GMT.** This event will be of interest to UK destination markets as well as UK inbound. Further details will be communicated next week. To ensure you receive notification, please email us by clicking [here](#).

Members' features



TourConnect's new [Travel-ML Tool](#) can read closeouts and tactical offers, in any supplier format.

The email add-in integrates with your booking system and can reduce data loading and processing by up to 60% on the first day using the tool. Contact support@tourconnect.com and mention ETOA2020 for a 10% discount!



Members' Features

Tackling the Impact of COVID-19 Together

[Contact us to be featured](#)