



## Restoring International Mobility

Brussels, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

The European Commission's proposal yesterday for a [Digital Green Certificate](#) to facilitate safe free movement inside the EU is welcome. ETOA, as a founding member, strongly endorses the [statement from the Tourism Manifesto](#) in support, and urges swift enabling legislation and implementation.

### But will Europe look outwards in time to save the 2021 season?

While the pandemic's persistence remains a grave concern, a partial return of non-essential travel is already in progress through ad hoc arrangements. From testing to vaccinations, and the digital proof required, the tools to manage the pandemic are the same as those needed to restore mobility.

International coordination is vital. Once Europe's internal borders open, there is no rational justification for excluding international visitors who can meet health requirements. Various countries are already introducing their own evidence-based schemes to enable recovery.

Implementing proper public health protection and restoring mobility - getting the economy moving again - are not mutually exclusive. The same false dilemma undermines visa and border policy: sufficient security or improved facilitation? We can and should have both, on a permanent basis.

Government needs a twin focus on managing the pandemic, and on preparing a responsible re-opening: as UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Polilikashvili said last week:

*"Travel restrictions have been widely used to restrict the spread of the virus. Now, as we work to restart tourism, we must recognise that restrictions are just one part of the solution. Their use must be based on the latest data and analysis and consistently reviewed so as to allow for the safe and responsible restart of a sector upon which many millions of businesses and jobs depend."* [\[source: UNWTO\]](#)

If normal involves wearing masks and social distancing in public, so be it. Vaccinations have been part of normal life for generations: only a hot topic now due to the politics of supply and the risk of misinformation affecting their uptake. But, thanks to science, we have them and they work.

A responsible return to travel is possible providing we can restore sufficient confidence and more predictability. Clients are more than ready to get tested, vaccinated and observe all necessary protocols. Europe can deliver safe services for all its visitors: leisure tourism will lead the recovery.

Non-European source markets make a disproportionately high economic contribution, and they also remind us how inter-dependent we are. October's climate talks will test our appetite and capacity for international collaboration: we may find COVID-19 management easy in comparison.

**On 30<sup>th</sup> March 15:00 CEST, ETOA will provide a free webinar on this topic.**

**Re-opening Europe: follow the evidence**

For information and registration, click [here](#).

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ETOA WEBINAR

**RE-OPENING EUROPE:  
FOLLOW THE EVIDENCE**

Tuesday, 30th March | 2:00 PM BST