

PRESS RELEASE

Next step in the EU Data Revolution – Plenary Vote on the EU PNR Directive and Data Protection Package

The EU Parliament adopted the EU PNR Directive and the Data Protection Package during the Plenary Session on 14th April 2016 in Strasbourg. It is a strong signal that EU data protection system will change for good.

ECTAA welcomes the vote of the EU Parliament, which is the next milestone in creating a full data protection framework for the EU citizens. While the new Data Protection Package will allow setting a legal framework to regulate the protection of EU citizens' personal data, the EU PNR Directive will establish clear rules to access data of the EU passengers.

In particular, the EU PNR Directive is a result of intensive negotiations between the policy makers and representatives of the stakeholders. ECTAA actively participated in the debates and represented the interests of the travel industry over the last months. One of ECTAA's major concerns was the proposal to oblige travel agents and tour operators to transfer passengers' data, in addition to what is transferred by the airlines. ECTAA is satisfied that this proposal was removed from the final agreement.

Said Lars Thykier, President of ECTAA:

"PNR is subject to changes requests by the passenger, especially in case of travel changes or cancellation. In the majority of cases, changes in the PNR file occur shortly before departure. These changes are last-minute cancellations or re-routings or the so-called "no-shows" In most of the cases, the travel agent is simply not aware in real time of cancellation / last minute changes and 'no-shows'. Only the airlines hold the most complete and updated information on passengers, who actually boarded a flight. Therefore, only operating airlines are able to transfer the actual PNR data to the authorities. We are pleased that the EU Parliament took the views of the travel industry into consideration".

ECTAA regroups the national associations of travel agents and tour operators of 31 European countries, of which 27 are within the European Union, and represents 80.000 enterprises.

Publication date: For immediate release.

For more information, please contact:

Ewa Grabiak

Legal Advisor - ECTAA - Group of National Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations within the EU

Rue Dautzenberg 36, B-1050 Brussels

E-mail: secretariat@ectaa.org, www.ectaa.org

Follow ECTAA on Twitter: [@ECTAA Europe](https://twitter.com/ECTAA_Europe)