

## European Social Partners of travel agents' and tour operators' community call for emergency measures

### PRESS RELEASE

*The European social partners for the European travel agents and tour operators welcome the new instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE), designed to help protect jobs and workers affected by the coronavirus pandemic, but urgent measures to avoid adverse liquidity effects on European businesses.*

Brussels, 3 April 2020. The European social partners for the European travel agents and tour operators – ECTAA, the European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Association, and UNI Europa, the European Services Workers Union – in joint statement call on the European and national authorities to give a strong signal to the European travel industry and put forward ambitious measures.

While acknowledging the measures that have already been taken by European and national authorities to support the economy, the situation is continuously evolving. ECTAA and UNI Europa called yesterday on the public authorities at both national and European level to take further actions and use the necessary flexibility at their disposal to overcome the present difficulties.

Eric Drésin, secretary general of ECTAA said “The cancellation of trips is currently causing an exorbitant outflow of liquidity, which could lead to the insolvency of thousands of tour operators and travel agencies in the very near future. All efforts need to be undertaken to help workers, enterprises, economic activities to survive the crisis.”

European as well as national Social Partners should be consulted in the designing as well as implementing of measures which should guarantee credit access and financial support for enterprises and for workers and self-employed.

Annika Flaten, director of tourism of UNI Europa concluded “the whole industry is under high pressure and we need to keep workers in their jobs, to protect them from unemployment as much as possible. European Social Partners showed their willingness to find positive solutions. They are ready to work the European Commission to transform words into actions”.

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Joint Statement: <https://www.ectaa.org/Uploads/position-papers/20200402-EU-Social-Partners-travel-agents-community-Covid-statement.pdf>

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ECTAA is the umbrella organisation of travel agents and tour operators across Europe. ECTAA represents some **70,000 travel agents and tour operators** in Europe, accounting for approximately **500.000 employees**.

UNI Europa is the European trade union federation for **7 million service workers**, representing **272 national trade unions** in **50 countries**,