

PRESS RELEASE

Urgent alignment and coordination of Member States' health and travel policy responses required

Ahead of the approaching festive season, a broad group of key travel and tourism stakeholders, including ECTAA, is urging again Member States to better coordinate and align their health and travel policy responses to avoid re-imposing restrictions to the freedom of movement across Europe.

Brussels, 22 November 2021. Several countries are beginning to reinstate movement restrictions for citizens. Yet, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has stated that in the current epidemiological situation travel restrictions are ineffective in reducing virus transmission, hospitalisations, or deaths. Considering that the EU adult population is now 76.6% vaccinated and with community transmission already high in most EU Member States, measures aimed at limiting border crossing would indeed not carry any public health benefit, but would negatively impact local economies and an already struggling travel and tourism industry.

A number of industry stakeholders have issued a statement today insisting again on the need for a common approach within Europe, based on the following:

- Movement towards an individual risk-based approach, rather than the country-to-country approach;
- Adoption of a common approach on the eligibility as well as timing of booster doses to extend vaccination validity;
- Update and alignment of the travel rules and restrictions, notably in respect of recognised vaccines, the duration of the validity of tests and vaccinations, acceptance of antigen tests, etc.

Said Pawel Niewiadomski, President of ECTAA: "According to the ECDC, preventing fully vaccinated individuals from travelling has no impact on public health. We appeal on decision-makers to adopt a European common approach on travel restrictions and public health protocols that is based on strong evidence of benefit, as well as principles of proportionality."

The full statement is available from the following [link](#).

About ECTAA

ECTAA represents some 70,000 travel agents and tour operators in Europe, which provide consultancy and sell transport, accommodation, leisure and other tourism services as well as combined products to leisure and business customers.

For more information, please contact:

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