

## Press release

### EU tourism calls on MEPs to back lead rapporteur's coach driver proposal

Brussels, 31 October 2023 - Ahead of the critical vote in the European Parliament's Transport Committee, the European tourism sector calls on MEPs to support the driving and rest time rules for coach drivers proposed by the Commission and Transport Committee's lead rapporteur.

Over three years since the adoption of EU's Mobility Package 1, the European Commission recognised that the current [coach driver rules are not suited to the occasional passenger transport sector](#).

Earlier this year, the Commission submitted a promising proposal which has since been improved by the European Parliament's Committee for Transport and Tourism's (TRAN's) lead rapporteur on driving and rest time rules for coach drivers.

In a letter sent today, IRU, ETOA and ECTAA urge TRAN Committee members to mobilise behind the lead rapporteur and bring about an impactful change for the coach tourism sector, especially for drivers.

IRU Director of EU Advocacy Raluca Marian said, "The Commission finally acknowledged earlier this year that the current coach driver rules are not suited for the occasional passenger transport sector. It's now time for the Parliament's Transport Committee to follow suit.

"By complementing the Commission's proposal with the necessary amendments, we can improve coach drivers' working conditions and reduce the unnecessary stress they're exposed to every day."

"Subjecting coach drivers to rules meant for truck drivers is holding back Europe's tourism sector, undermining the safest and most environmentally friendly form of collective passenger transport" added Raluca Marian.

Coach tourism drivers tailor their journeys according to the pace of their passengers. This means more breaks and stops along the way, and a combination of longer trips (at the start and end of long-distance tours) and shorter trips (during tours), with an average driving time of around 4.5 to 5 hours per day.

Eric Drésin, Secretary General of ECTAA, said: "There is no time to waste. The coach driver file needs to be finalised this year, allowing for the institutional negotiations to be completed and the law to go into effect. Coach drivers deserve rules designed for their work, not that of their truck driver colleagues".

The Transport Committee, the lead committee on this file, will vote on its report on 16 November, which will be followed by the vote in the Parliament's plenary in December.

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## **About ECTAA**

ECTAA represents some 80,000 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.

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