

## Countdown to the implementation of new Spanish regulations requiring confidential personal data from travellers visiting Spain

- **Royal Decree 933/2021, which is already referred to as the "Tourism Big Brother," will come into force in Spain on December 2, and has already been rejected by the Spanish Parliament and Senate, which have urged the Government to suspend and revise it.**
- **Under this regulation, the Spanish Government will require travel agencies, tourist accommodations, and car rental companies to report sensitive personal information of travellers visiting Spain to the Spanish security forces, such as their phone number, contact email, family relationship details, and even information about payment methods used during the trip.**

**November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024** — The **European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA)**, along with its Spanish representative **ACAVER**, and in collaboration with the associations **FETAVE** and **UNAV**, are warning about the serious implications of Royal Decree 933/2021. For the associations, it is crucial to **raise awareness among the public and travellers about the seriousness of this regulation, as they will be the main victims of its implementation**. Travel agencies, tourist accommodations, and car rental companies will be required to provide the Ministry of the Interior with more than 40 pieces of information for accommodation bookings and over 60 for car rental bookings, many of which are sensitive personal data.

This regulation was developed by the Ministry of the Interior with the goal of security and providing police forces with more information about travellers arriving in and passing through Spain. However, the scope of the requested data is excessive and could violate data protection regulations. For this reason, the majority of the Spanish Congress approved, on October 23, a proposition demanding that the Spanish Government reopen negotiations and postpone its implementation. Additionally, on November 20, the Spanish Senate also rejected this regulation by a majority vote.

However, the Spanish Government is ignoring the majority approval in Parliament and continues to provide no response to the requests for suspension and review of the regulation, maintaining the December 2, 2024, deadline for full implementation of Royal Decree 933/2021.

The imposition of these new obligations not only represents a serious threat to the privacy of personal data, as it forces travel agencies, tourist accommodations, and car rental companies to collect and transmit to the Ministry of the Interior highly sensitive information, such as financial details, traveller relationships, and even travel patterns for three years, but it also exposes citizens to potential risks of misuse of their information in the event of cyberattacks. This makes travellers the main victims of the potential exposure of their sensitive data, as **this regulation is unprecedented in any other European Union country.**

ECTAA and ACAVER have expressed their deep concern about this new regulation, warning of the severe repercussions for the European tourism market and the protection of travellers' personal data. They have also contacted the Spanish Government and the Spanish Data Protection Agency, requesting the suspension of the regulation and clarification on issues that could constitute a violation of European data protection laws, but have yet to receive any response.

#### **About ACAVER**

The Corporate Association of Specialized Travel Agencies (ACAVER) is the most representative travel agency employer association in Spain, encompassing over 400 members and around 1,000 sales points throughout the country. The association includes all types of agencies: vacation and corporate agencies, tour operators, coastal and city receptives, online agencies, and cruise companies.

#### **About ECTAA**

ECTAA represents the interests of 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.

#### **For more information**

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