

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

“Plenary backs PTD revision – ECTAA warns against new fragmentation”

Following today’s Plenary vote on the Package Travel Directive (PTD) revision, ECTAA acknowledges progress made but warns that key concerns remain. The association highlights the risk of Single Market fragmentation through diverging prepayment rules and cautions that the new 24-hour definition could create confusion for both consumers and businesses. ECTAA calls on trilogue negotiators to address these issues and ensure a balanced framework that provides strong traveller protection without overburdening SMEs.

Brussels, 11 September 2025. The European Travel Agents’ and Tour Operators’ Association (ECTAA) takes note of today’s European Parliament Plenary vote on the revision of the Package Travel Directive (PTD). While progress has been made, ECTAA stresses that important concerns remain.

First and foremost, ECTAA warns that allowing Member States to set national rules on prepayments risks fragmenting the Single Market, undermining a level playing field for travel operators, and creating unnecessary compliance burdens for cross-border businesses.

ECTAA also highlights ongoing legal uncertainties linked to the new 24-hour definition, which risks blurring the line between packages and standalone services. This may cause confusion among consumers and traders alike, leading to unexpected contract changes and pricing challenges.

The next step in the legislative process will be the trilogue negotiations—informal discussions between the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission—where compromises are reached on the final text. ECTAA hopes that these talks will address the remaining issues in the directive.

More generally, ECTAA regrets that insufficient effort has been made to ensure better alignment with passenger rights legislation—particularly regarding refunds and insolvency protection. It is crucial that passenger rights are strengthened up to the PTD standard so that all travellers enjoy the same high level of protection, rather than diluting existing safeguards.

Frank Oostdam, President of ECTAA, stated *“Today’s vote is a step in the right direction, but we cannot afford half-measures. If Europe wants to build trust with travellers and strengthen its tourism industry, the final directive must remove sources of confusion and fragmentation. The trilogues are the moment to get it right: clear rules, true harmonisation, and protections that are both strong for travellers and workable for SMEs.”*

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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.

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