



Press Statement – For immediate release
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ETRC calls for a coordinated approach to restart travel among European Member States ahead of Summer

Following the meeting of the ETRC Supervisory Board earlier today, ETRC reaffirms its call to European governments for a coordinated approach to allow for a safe and efficient resumption of travel and tourism in Europe and beyond.

Latest data released today by European airport body ACI EUROPE shows a worsening of the crisis compared to earlier forecasts. Passenger traffic in Q1 decreased by -81.7% across the European airport network, compared to Q1 2019. This marked a further decrease from the previous quarter (Q4 2020 at -79.2%).

In that respect, ETRC welcomes the proposal by the European Commission for a Digital Green Certificate and calls upon the EU Parliament and EU Member States to adopt it under the urgent procedure as well as prepare for its implementation in time for the summer period.

By displaying proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result or recovered from COVID-19, the use of such certificates should facilitate the resumption of international travel, be fully interoperable and mutually recognised so they can be used in an international context.

In parallel, as vaccination against COVID-19 successfully rolls out across Europe, ETRC calls upon Member States to restore freedom of movement by:

- removing national restrictions on non-essential travel in Europe
- implementing an affordable and rapid testing system for travel
- ending blanket quarantines by implementing a reliable testing system.

ETRC President Nigel Keal said: “Despite protocols in place to allow for safe travel, many European countries have taken a very restrictive approach when it comes to non-essential travel. We hope that the Digital Green Certificate will be part of a broader strategy for a coordinated restart of travel in Europe to provide much-needed certainty for our industry and our travellers ahead of the Summer period”.

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About the European Travel Retail Confederation

The European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) is an industry association for the duty free and travel retail industry in Europe, serving the industry and its members to help create the right environment to allow the industry to achieve its potential and protect it when challenges arise.

ETRC is composed of national and regional affiliated trade associations representing over 200 European companies, Tax Free World Association (TFWA) representing 500 brand companies, and direct corporate membership from individual companies working in the duty free and travel retail trade across Europe and beyond. The European Travel Retail Confederation's operations are directed by its Supervisory and Managing Boards and carried out by a full-time secretariat. For more information about the organisation, please see our website – www.etrc.org