

DESTINATION SUMMER

'Destination Summer' brings together five of the leading aviation, travel and tourism European associations: **Airlines For Europe (A4E)**, **Airports Council International Europe (ACI EUROPE)**, the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, the **European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA)**, and the **European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC)**. Our goal is to work together with EU and national policy-makers to promote a **harmonised EU approach** regarding the lifting of travel restrictions across Member States, consistent with health imperatives.

COVID-19 has created the greatest crisis the European travel and tourism industry has ever experienced. The sector represents 10% of EU GDP - a true lifeline for many regional economies across the bloc. Beyond the economic aspect, we recognise the importance of freedom of movement as a core value for EU citizens. After months of lockdowns and restrictions which have impacted the wellbeing and mental health of us all, EU citizens long to be reunited with family, friends and beloved ones abroad; to open up and explore other cultures; to benefit again from cross-border education and exchange programmes - all those features at the core of the European way of life.

We firmly believe that a safe resumption of travel in the summer of 2021 will be the beginning of a long-term recovery for the sector and a gradual return to normalcy for many. Cross-border travel must be carried out in a risk-based manner: by respecting safety measures, we can ensure a more rapid and robust recovery.

We welcome the agreement on the EU Digital COVID Certificate and see this as a first step towards the re-establishment of Schengen and freedom of movement in Europe. In this spirit, we support the Commission's proposed revision of the Council recommendations on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU, which seeks to gradually ease the restriction of certificate-holders and update the common criteria for risk areas. That is why it is ever more important for Member States to implement these initiatives at the national level in order to guarantee an EU coordinated approach.

This is not just about summer holidays but is essential for cross-border workers as well as EU citizens to finally visit their families. Thanks to the ongoing vaccination campaigns across the EU, the growing scientific evidence around the efficacy of vaccines, and the improvements in the epidemiological situation, the prerequisites are there to allow the reopening of the travel and tourism in a coordinated fashion, avoiding unfair competition and restoring freedom of movement.

Hence, our coalition is advocating for a **European common approach based on:**

- The **restoration of the freedom of movement** in the EU via the swift implementation of the EU Digital COVID Certificate, and of the proposed revision of the Council recommendations on the coordination of free movement restrictions in the EU.
- The **implementation of an affordable, reliable and rapid EU testing protocol** for travel that allows for the end of blanket quarantines, also thanks to the growing availability and reliability of antigen tests.



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- A push for a **progressive resumption of non-essential international travel**, through a regular revision of the 'white list' and by allowing the entry into the EU for travellers coming from third-countries with a good epidemiological situation and for those inoculated with an EU-authorized vaccine.

