

Member of the European Parliament
Committee on Transport and Tourism
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 - Bruxelles
Belgium

By email

BR1059890/SMR

Brussels, 31 October 2023

Re: Call for specific rules for coach drivers to fit driving conditions and improve comfort and safety

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Ahead of the important vote in the European Parliament's Committee for Transport and Tourism (TRAN) on the European Commission's proposal regarding driving and rest time rules for coach drivers, the united European travel and tourism sectors:

Call for your support for the report of the TRAN Committee's lead rapporteur on driving and rest time rules for coach drivers, Ms. Henna Virkkunen.

The European Commission submitted a good proposal, further improved by the lead rapporteur's amendments. The proposal and the further amendments finally give coach tourism drivers the rules they deserve.

Having specific driving and rest time rules for coach drivers is a logical move following the adoption of the EU's Mobility Package 1, where the EU legislators, European Parliament and Council focused almost exclusively on rules for truck operators and drivers. *Having coach drivers subject to truck driver rules has been holding back the tourism sector. It is high time to give drivers the conditions they need to do a good and satisfying job – for themselves and the customers.*

The European Commission's proposal, complemented by the necessary amendments will:

- Improve drivers' working conditions and reduce their stress by offering them more flexibility,
- Improve safety by adapting the rules to the specific driving patterns of coach tourism, thus reducing stressful situations and potential conflicts with passengers onboard, and
- Improve driver and customer satisfaction.

Through a better travel experience, these critical measures will increase the appeal of European group tourism by coach, a safe and environmentally friendly form of collective passenger.

Given the importance of the required changes and the already long waiting period since the adoption of the Mobility Package 1, **we would like to stress the sense of urgency and call on your support for the finalisation of this file as soon as possible in 2023**, allowing for the institutional trilogue to be completed and the law going into effect in the first quarter of 2024.



Raluca Marian
Director, EU Advocacy
General Delegate, IRU



Eric Drésin
Secretary General, ECTAA



Tim Fairhurst
Director General, ETOA

[IRU](#) is the world road transport organisation and the voice of one million transport operators in the European Union, connecting societies with safe, efficient, and green mobility and logistics.

[ETOA](#) is the trade association for tour operators and suppliers in European destinations, from global brands to local independent businesses. The membership includes over 1,100 tour and online operators, intermediaries and wholesalers, European tourist boards, hotels, attractions, technology companies and other tourism and business service providers.

[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.