

**EUROPEAN
TRAVEL
COMMISSION**

ETOA

ECTAA
THE EUROPEAN TRAVEL AGENTS'
AND TOUR OPERATORS' ASSOCIATIONS

**INTEGRITY
IN TOURISM** **USTOA**
United States Tour Operators Association

US TRAVEL BAN WILL HAVE DETRIMENTAL IMPLICATIONS ON EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN TOURISM

The European Travel Commission (ETC), the European Tourism Association (ETOA), United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) and the European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA) urge bilateral conversations between European and US authorities to review and cancel the travel suspension from Europe to the United States of America

US President Donald Trump announced a 30-day suspension of travel by non-US citizens from Europe's Schengen Zone to the United States. This is in an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Trump said the European Union had "failed to take the same precautions" as the US had implemented to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

According to the US Department for Homeland Security (DHS) and the President's proclamation, the ban applies to the countries belonging to the 26-member Schengen passport-free zone. These are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Non-members of Schengen such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Croatia, San Marino, Monaco, Serbia, Montenegro among others are not covered by the ban.

The European Travel Commission (ETC), the European Tourism Association (ETOA), United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) and the European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations (ECTAA) consider this ban not evidenced based and adding more confusion to a beleaguered industry that will likely add more losses to its already-damaged business with long term consequences for the future recovery of jobs and economic growth.

Supporting the official statement from the EU institutions, Eduardo Santander declares (CEO European Travel Commission) *"The coronavirus is a global crisis, not limited to any destination and it requires cooperation rather than unilateral action. Planes fly from A to B and B to A, the European tourism sector disapproves this unilateral travel ban without any consultation which will equally affect travel and tourism businesses and citizens at both sides of the Atlantic."*

“The President’s statement is puzzling” said Tom Jenkins (CEO of ETOA). “Having downplayed the significance of the crisis – for which there is some argument – he then stigmatizes an entire continent. This is a global crisis and we need global understanding. As it stands this move disproportionately damages inbound tourism to the US and punctures confidence in Europe as a destination. Fear is more damaging and spreads faster than a virus”.

ENDS

Note to editors

The [European Travel Commission](#) is an association of National Tourism Organisations (NTOs). It was created in 1948 to promote Europe as a tourist destination to the long-haul markets outside of Europe, originally in the USA and later in Canada, Latin America and Asia. It currently has 33 member NTOs, including 7 from outside the European Union. Europe is the world’s no. 1 tourist destination with 742 million international arrivals in 2019 and more than 50% of the market share of worldwide tourism. For more information, please visit www.etc-corporate.org.

The [European Tourism Association](#) (ETOA) is the trade association for tour operators and suppliers with business in European destinations. Over 1000 members contribute more than €12bn of business within Europe and include tour and online operators, intermediaries and wholesalers; European tourist boards, hotels, attractions and other tourism suppliers. Please visit www.etoa.org for more information

[ECTAA](#) regroups the national associations of travel agents and tour operators of 30 European countries, of which 27 are within the European Union, and represents some 70.000 enterprises. It also has four International Members from Israel, Malaysia, Morocco and Tunisia. For more information, please visit www.ectaa.org.

Representing nearly \$19 billion in revenue, the member companies of [US Tour Operators Association](#) provide tours, packages and custom arrangements that allow 9.8 million travelers annually unparalleled access, insider knowledge, peace-of-mind, value and freedom to enjoy destinations and experiences across the entire globe. As a voice for the tour operator industry for more than 40 years, USTOA also provides education and assistance for consumers and travel agents. For more information, please visit ustoa.com.