

## TRAVELLING IS NOT A CRIME: ETC STRONGLY CONDEMNS NEW UK TRAVEL MEASURES

**Brussels, 10 February 2021:** The European Travel Commission (ETC) strongly condemns the new tough enforcement measures for travellers announced yesterday by the UK Government.

As well as introducing two mandatory tests after arrival and obligatory "quarantine packages" for travellers from "red list" countries, the new rules include heavy financial penalties and potential jail time for non-compliance. Travellers arriving from high-risk countries now face possible imprisonment of up to 10 years for not disclosing the correct travel information.

The European Travel Commission, the association representing the National Tourism Organisations of the countries of Europe, is calling on the United Kingdom to reconsider these drastic measures urgently. We must put a stop to placing the act of travelling in the same category as severe criminal offences.

Following the announcement, ETC's President Luís Araújo said: "Travellers are not felons and should not face several legal repercussions for arriving back home from another country. Throughout this crisis, we have learned that blanket restrictions are not the way forward, especially in countries with already high levels of community transmission. It is crucial to strike a balance between sensible public health measures and preserving connectivity and citizens' mobility. We firmly believe that the process of vaccination, testing on arrival and departure, together with efficient tracing systems and hygiene measures, will safely restore movement between countries. We are calling all the national and international organisations in the travel and tourism sector to firmly condemn these measures and support solutions which are universally beneficial to the industry and to international relations".

ENDS

### [Note to editors - About the European Travel Commission](#)

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.

For further information: ETC's corporate website <http://www.etc-corporate.org> is aimed at industry, government and educational personnel interested in tourism to Europe. Tourists seeking travel-specific information and ideas are directed to ETC's consumer portal <http://www.visiteurope.com>.

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