



Commission's guidance on how to safely resume travel and reboot Europe's tourism in 2020 and beyond

Brussels, 13 May 2020

Today the European Commission has published a package of guidelines and recommendations to help Member States gradually lift travel restrictions and allow tourism businesses to reopen, after months of lockdown, while respecting necessary health precautions.

The Commission's Tourism and Transport package includes the Communication '**COVID-19: Guidelines on the progressive restoration of transport services and connectivity**', a framework to support the gradual re-establishment of transport whilst ensuring the safety of passengers and personnel.

The Communication contains practical guidance on specific measures to ensure safe passenger transport for all modes in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, which also covers taxis:

'Taxi and PHV services have largely continued with specific protection measures for drivers and limitations to only one passenger or several people living in the same household.

These services should continue operating with specific hygiene and risk mitigating measures. Companies should provide drivers with masks and disinfectants. Vehicle interiors should be disinfected as frequently as possible. Taxi and PHV drivers should avoid physical contact with passengers and electronic payment should always be prioritised. Companies should provide drivers with physical separators (e.g. plastic curtains or barriers) for vehicles to limit contact with passengers. Passengers should



not be allowed to sit next to the driver unless physical separation is possible. Companies should share relevant information with passengers before the trip.'

In the conclusions the Commission states that 'will continue to work with competent authorities, stakeholder organisations, transport operators and services providers to adjust and update our approaches and measures, taking into account latest epidemiological developments, feedback on the effectiveness of existing measures, and the needs of EU citizens and our economy.'

As TEA, we are glad to see that the Commission has acknowledged is promoting the exact same measures that our drivers have been taking right from the beginning of the crisis to guarantee the continuity of the service and the safety of the passengers.

We look forward to continue the dialogue with the Commission and to give our contribution in adjusting and updating such measures as the situation evolves.