



Press Release

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AETTA supports further tightening of EU environmental regulations in the transport sector but warns against negative economic impact

The European Union leads the global fight against climate change and, certainly, Association of European Travel and Tourist Agencies supports those efforts and regards them as highly beneficial for the long-term health of the tourism sector in Europe. However, in light of the current fragile state of the European economy it is important to pay particular attention to the economic impact of the measures and in particular those in the transport sector.

Helmut Messner, Secretary General of AETTA, assessed: "The evidence that we gathered inside of our Association suggests that our members were confronted with rising transport costs in 2011 and now in 2012, especially evident in the sector of air travel. We believe that a significant part of price increases in transport comes from higher fuel taxes in certain EU member states and the inclusion of airlines in the European Union's carbon plan. The latter led to the need for the airlines to include the cost of purchasing the CO₂ certificates in their existing fuel surcharges as of 2012. The additional price pressure passed over to the end consumer has a negative impact on the travel and tourism sector in Europe, already suffering from rather morose economic conditions throughout the continent. We believe EU leaders should take that into account and find a more gradual way to tighten environmental regulation. "

At the same time, AETTA hails the introduction of lower CO₂ emission limits on new car fleet and estimates that the EU regulators could potentially be even more ambitious as the unlocked potential for the clean ground transportation is significant. This mechanism not only serves its main goal of reducing the environmental impact of the transport sector but also supports the long-term consumer purchasing power through lower fuel costs.

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Note to the Editor: Association of European Travel and Tourist Agencies (AETTA) embraces over one thousand travel and tourist agencies working in Europe or serving European destinations. Each year these collectively serve 8.5 million clients, generate a total turnover of some €4.8 billion and employ directly 22 000 people.

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