



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 09 October 2024

**Interinstitutional files:
2023/0435 (COD)**

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information (Attachés)
Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information

Subject: Package Travel Directive - Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information
on 15 October - Presidency Flash

Delegations will find attached a Presidency Flash for the above-mentioned meeting.

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PRESIDENCY FLASH

WORKING PARTY ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION

15 October 2024

Dear Colleagues,

We would like to invite you to the next full-day meeting of the Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information on 15 October to continue the discussions on the Commission's proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2015/2302/EC **on package travel and linked travel arrangements (PTD)**.

The Hungarian Presidency has prepared a third compromise proposal, which will be presented and discussed at our next meeting. At the same time, we encourage those Member States that have not yet shared their views to do so, particularly with regard to the definitions of package and linked travel arrangements, as their input could be crucial in shaping the Council's position.

In preparing the new text proposal, we focused on the key issues and questions. With this in mind, we would like to invite Member States to share their views on the changes during the meeting.

Main changes to the text concern the following articles:

- Article 3: definitions (option "C" has been modified)
- Article 17: information provision in case of insolvency (and corresponding recital (21))

Other modifications: recitals (16a), (18a) and (23).

The **definitions** of package and LTAs remain one of the key issues. In order to clarify them and move forward, the Presidency would like to engage in a more detailed discussion. To this end, we would like to highlight certain cases of LTAs and packages in the context of a thought-provoking presentation.

As regards definitions Member States are divided: a group of them would like to delete the LTAs (Option A), while others would like to keep them (Option B). As neither option has yet gained majority support, these options remain on the table.

Based on the delegations' comments at the last Working Party meeting and the written comments received so far, we tried to further develop Option C with the aim to address Member States' requests to simplify the definitions and to present a compromise solution.

The Commission has proposed an alternative Option B, which intends to simplify the definition of LTAs. The Hungarian Presidency would also like to hear the opinions of the Member States on this proposal.

Once again, we urge Member States to consider which is the most effective option in terms of definitions, keeping in mind their practical enforcement and ensuring that consumer rights are not lowered.

It should be noted that since no final decision has been taken on the definitions, the relevant recitals have not yet been modified.

With regard to information provision in case of **insolvency** we suggest to further simplify them. The new paragraph 6b lists the information that the entity responsible for insolvency protection is required to publish on its website without delay.

Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have any questions.

We very much look forward to seeing you all again on 15 October.

Best regards,

The Hungarian Presidency Team

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SIGHTS IN HUNGARY

1. BUDAPEST, INCLUDING THE BANKS OF THE DANUBE, THE BUDA CASTLE QUARTER, AND ANDRÁSSY AVENUE

This site captures the historical and architectural beauty of Hungary's capital city. The area includes the Parliament Building, Buda Castle, Fisherman's Bastion, Chain Bridge, and Andrassy Avenue, representing a blend of architectural styles and the vibrant history of Budapest.

2. OLD VILLAGE OF HOLLÓKŐ AND ITS SURROUNDINGS



Hollókő is a preserved rural village that showcases traditional Hungarian village life. Its unique layout, folk architecture, and customs, especially the Palóc culture, make it an important cultural site. The village faithfully preserves 18th-century rural architecture and the way of life from the early 20th century.

3. CAVES OF AGGTELEK KARST AND SLOVAK KARST

This natural site spans the border of Hungary and Slovakia and includes over 1,000 caves. The caves feature impressive stalactites, stalagmites, and unique geological formations, highlighting the region's karst landscape.

4. MILLENNARY BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF PANNONHALMA AND ITS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This abbey was founded in 996 AD and is one of Hungary's oldest historical monuments. The Benedictine monastery has played a crucial role in Hungary's religious, cultural, and educational history. It is both a historical memorial site and a vibrant, active religious center.



5. HORTOBÁGY NATIONAL PARK - THE PUSZTA



Hortobágy is Europe's largest natural grassland, known as the Puszta. It is a cultural landscape where traditional pastoralism and herding have continued for centuries, preserving ancient Hungarian practices. The diverse flora and fauna, the Nine-Arch Bridge and the Hortobágyi Csárda (authentic restaurant) offer an unforgettable experience.

6. EARLY CHRISTIAN NECROPOLIS OF PÉCS

The city of Pécs was a significant Roman settlement in the 4th century, and its early Christian burial chambers and frescoes are considered unique examples of Christian art and architecture from that time. The Early Christian burial chambers in Pécs form the largest contiguous early Christian cemetery complex outside of ancient Italy.

7. FERTŐ / NEUSIEDLERSEE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Shared between Hungary and Austria, this cultural landscape is around Lake Fertő, where human settlements date back to prehistoric times. Located in a region with unique natural features in Europe, Lake Fertő covers 315 square kilometres and is the westernmost saline steppe lake in Europe, serving as a natural habitat for numerous plant and animal species. One of the most characteristic representatives of the rich wildlife that nests here is the highly protected great egret, a magnificent wading bird, with its snow-white plumage and graceful flight.



8. TOKAJ WINE REGION HISTORIC CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The cultural landscape reflects centuries of wine-making tradition, with terraced vineyards, wine cellars, and small villages.