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General Secretariat

Brussels, 31 October 2024

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**NOTE**

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

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Subject: Package Travel Directive - Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information  
on 6 November - Presidency Flash

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

# PRESIDENCY FLASH

## WORKING PARTY ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION

6 November 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 6 November.

According to the Agenda and the Information Note provided by the General Secretariat of the Council, the Working Party will examine first the **Commission's Delegated Regulation** with regard rules on access to and operation of the Safety Gate Rapid Alert System, information to be entered in that System, notification requirements and the criteria for assessment of the level of risk and Member States comments with the aim to verify if there are grounds to raise an objection.

Then the Working Party will 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 fourth compromise proposal which will be presented and discussed at our next meeting. We would like to thank delegations for their valuable written contributions and comments.

In preparing the new text proposal, we focused on those parts of the text that are not related to definitions. With this in mind, we would like to invite Member States to share their views on the changes made in these parts of the text.

**The main changes made to the text relate the following articles:**

### **Article 12 – Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances**

In line with Member States' requests, the word „objectively” has been removed from Article 12, Paragraph 2. Similarly, references to individual personal circumstances (higher-risk group, travelling with young children) have been deleted from the corresponding Recital (18a). Despite these deletions, such factors may still be considered, as a case-by-case assessment is required in each dispute.

### **Article 12a – Vouchers**

In this latest compromise text, the Presidency made several adjustments to this article. Firstly, in response to Member States' requests, the text now limits the transferability of vouchers, so that they can only be transferred once. It has also been clarified that it is the responsibility of the transferor to provide the trader with the necessary and relevant information to identify the transferee, as they are the only person in possession of such information. Furthermore, the new sentence in the first paragraph states that in order to

make vouchers more attractive, traders may offer vouchers of a higher value than the traveller's refund right.

Paragraphs 2 and 5a have been merged to streamline the text and avoid duplication. We have retained Paragraph 2 and its content, which outlines the information that the trader must provide to the traveller when offering the voucher. In parallel, a new Paragraph 2a has been added (replacing the former Paragraph 5a), which states that the voucher must contain the same information provided in paragraph 2, with the addition of the trader's name. This amendment aims to simplify the readability of the provisions and avoid duplications.

Paragraph 3a has been deleted and its content moved to paragraph 2. The aim is to clarify when the traveller's refund right applies in the case of the redemption of the voucher. According to this revision, the refund will be made within 14 days after the end of the validity period, based on its original value.

The order of the provisions has been adjusted for logical clarity: Paragraph 5 has been moved under Paragraph 3a, while the content of Paragraph 7 is now reflected in the new Paragraph 4b, as both deal with the suspension of the refund right. The content of the provisions remains unchanged; only the sequence has been modified. Thus, the validity period of the voucher is defined first, followed by what happens if the voucher is not redeemed.

Paragraph 8 has been amended to specify that if the trader is not informed of the transfer of the voucher, the voucher itself will not be valid.

Paragraph 9 has been deleted as this issue is already covered by Article 17 and is therefore redundant.

In parallel with these amendments, the corresponding Recital (16a) has also been amended.

### **Article 17 – Effectiveness and scope of insolvency protection**

In response to Member States' comments, the division of Paragraphs (6a) and (6b) introduced in the previous compromise text has been removed. This is due to the fact that the conditions set out would be unenforceable given the different systems in each Member State. Member States will have the power to designate the entities responsible for ensuring insolvency protection (as it now stands is Recital (23)). It is specified that Member States must ensure that, in the event of the insolvency of the trader, travellers are promptly informed, through appropriate communication channels, of all the information listed in paragraph 6a.

The corresponding Recital (23) has also been amended accordingly.

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 6 November.

Best regards,  
The Hungarian Presidency Team

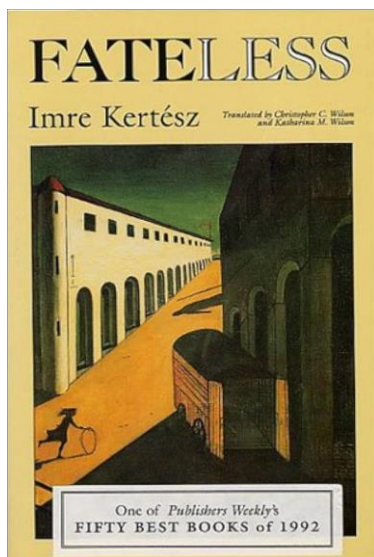
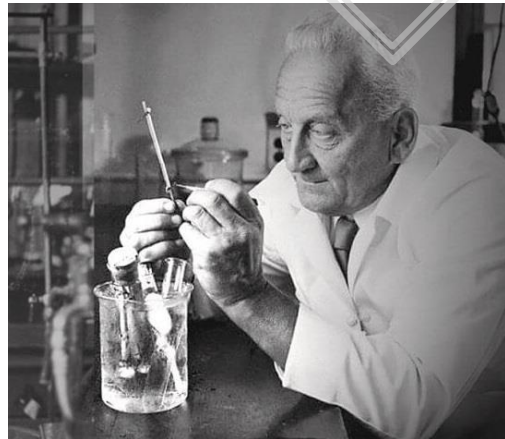


## AND THE NOBEL PRIZE GOES TO...

Hungary recognizes a total of **19 Nobel Prize winners** with Hungarian connections, encompassing laureates who were born in Hungary, those of Hungarian descent, and individuals who have significant ties to the country.

Here, we present four outstanding Nobel laureates from this group.

**ALBERT SZENT-GYÖRGYI** was a physiologist who **discovered vitamin C** and its role in preventing scurvy. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1937 for his work on the biological combustion process, particularly with regard to vitamin C and the catalysis of fumaric acid. Szent-Györgyi's discoveries greatly advanced the understanding of cellular respiration and the human immune system.



**IMRE KERTÉSZ** was an author and

Holocaust survivor best known for his novel **Fatelessness**, which is based on his Holocaust experiences. His works often explore themes of oppression, identity, and the absurdity of human existence. In 2002, he became the first Hungarian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature.

**KATALIN KARIKÓ** is a biochemist best known for her pioneering work in **mRNA technology**, which played a crucial role in the development of COVID-19 vaccines. She had spent decades working with RNA-based therapies. In 2023, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, alongside Drew Weissman, for their contributions to the field.

**FERENC KRAUSZ** is a **physicist** known for his groundbreaking work in attosecond science, a field that studies extremely short bursts of light. He was the **first to generate and measure attosecond pulses**, allowing scientists to observe electron movements within atoms in real time. In 2023, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his contributions to this revolutionary technology, alongside Pierre Agostini and Anne L'Huillier.

'**The Martians**' (Hungarian: 'A marslakók') were a group of prominent scientists (mostly, but not exclusively, physicists and mathematicians) of Hungarian descents. The Martians group includes some Nobel Prize winner scientists as **Jenő Wigner**, **György András Oláh** or **György Hevesy**. Other members of these scientists as **Leó Szilárd** or **János Neumann** also greatly contributed to the advancement of science.