



EUROPE
MIDDLE EAST
AFRICA

IAAPA EMEA Monthly EU intelligence report

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Summary

On 1st July 2017, **Estonia became the presiding Member State of the Council of EU** for six months. The Estonians hope to make progress on issues of interest to the amusement park & attraction business (accessibility act, geo-blocking and ETIAS¹).

Brexit: A UK government spokesperson said in a statement that that **free movement of EU citizens to and from the UK would end** in March 2019. In the meantime, the third round of Brexit negotiations started in Brussels. Importantly for our industry, **citizens' rights** after Brexit are among the three topics discussed in this round. Unless there is 'substantial' progress on this by October, the European Council might not allow the process to enter its next phase. In the meantime, a [leak](#) surfaced revealing draft proposals to end free movement right after Brexit

Tourism: Members of the European Parliament and various other tourism stakeholders called on the European Commission to step up its involvement and issue a **comprehensive strategy supporting the tourism sector**.

The European Parliament published a **useful list of [EU funds](#)** that may support activities in **tourism**. Tourism as such has no dedicated EU funding line.

The European Parliament proposed [changes](#) to the planned European Travel Information System – the European equivalent of the US ESTA. Some amendments **propose raising the authorization fee from five to twelve EUR and shortening the validity to three years instead of five** – which would make travel to the EU more problematic. These amendments will be debated in Committee and voted on in the autumn.

In an attempt **to support labour mobility** within the EU, the European Commission has launched a useful unified classification of skills and competences. The list includes many jobs in amusement parks. [European classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications \(ESCO\)](#).

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) tabled numerous tourism, visa related questions. The Commissions answered a question revealing that temporary border controls imposed in the wake of the migration crisis might end in 2017 ([info](#)).

Get involved: There is an opportunity to have your voice heard and contribute to EU policy making: EU launches public **consultations on legislation on legal migration and consumer law**.

[News from EU Member States:](#)

- **France:** New rules come into force on **accessibility** at public places including parks – register of facility's accessible information.

¹ European travel information and authorization system

General

Estonian EU Presidency to advance accessibility rules and future EU travel authorisation scheme

More: [Estonian Presidency website](#)

On 1st July 2017, Estonia became the presiding Member State of the Council of EU² for six months. The Estonians hope to (among others):

- Advance the draft ETIAS regulation (more information [below](#)) might reach trilogue stage – presiding country leads the negotiations with the Parliament and Commission on the final text of the draft regulation
- Contribute to a “speedy agreement” on the Accessibility Act
- Finalize the approval of the regulation on unjustified geo-blocking
- Continue to pursue an agreement on the renewal of the European Union Blue Card directive
- Hold successful negotiations on the posting of workers directive

Brexit

3rd round of Brexit negotiations start with key issue for amusement parks on agenda

Source: [Politico](#), [EurActiv](#) – 28/8/2017

The third round of Brexit talks started in Brussels on Monday 28th September. [Full agenda](#). There are three main discussion points: The financial settlement (the Brexit Bill), citizens’ rights and north-south relations in Ireland after Brexit. These are also the three areas where significant progress must be made before talks can move onto the future of EU-UK relations, as agreed by the European Council before negotiations began. Only one more round is scheduled before EU Member States leaders (All EU Prime Ministers and Heads of State) meet in October and assess whether sufficient progress has been made in the first four rounds to allow opening up the next phase of negotiations (trade talks). UK media reported a [leak](#) revealing draft proposals to end free movement immediately after Brexit and offer low-skilled EU migrants two-year work permits, with higher-skilled workers getting three-to-five year visas. The plan has not yet been approved by ministers.

EU dismisses UK temporary customs union plan

Source: [The Economist Espresso](#) – 16/8/2017

Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament’s Brexit negotiator, dismissed the British government’s plans for a temporary customs union with the EU after Brexit as “a fantasy”. The union would bridge the gap until long-term arrangements could be put in place. However, Mr Verhofstadt and other senior EU officials want to settle other issues, including Britain’s exit bill, before discussing trade.

² To find out more about the rotating presidency of the Council, see [this 1 minute video](#)

Free movement of EU citizens to Britain might end in March 2019

Source: [Financial Times](#) – 31/7/2017

On 31st July, the UK prime minister's spokesman said that free movement of EU citizens to and from the UK would end in March 2019, when the UK leaves the bloc. "Elements of the post-Brexit immigration system will be brought forward in due course," the spokesman added. "It would be wrong to speculate on what these will look like or to suggest that free movement will continue." The Guardian published a story on 17th August citing government sources as saying that Post-Brexit system will allow EU citizens to enter freely, but to work they will need to comply with new immigration restrictions.

May launches post-Brexit immigration study

Source: [Politico](#) – 27/7/2017

The UK government has commissioned independent experts to advise on the U.K.'s post-Brexit border policy and the economic impact of immigration from the EU, in a major concession to businesses that have called for a soft Brexit.

Useful Brexit related resources:

- [Comparison of EU/UK positions on citizens' rights](#)
- [UK Government position papers and other Brexit related documents](#)
- [EU's Brexit Newsroom](#)
- [EU repository of Brexit related documents](#)

Tourism and culture

Parliamentary question: Exit and entry checks in and out of the Schengen area

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 18/8/2017

UKIP (EFDD) Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Jill Saymour asked the European Commission in a written question about the travel delays caused by the implementation of additional checks at the Schengen border, which she characterizes as 'unnecessary,'. She asked the Commission if risk assessments were conducted, why member states were not able to adequately deal with the change, and how it intends to evaluate the changes. *The question should be answered within six weeks.*

Parliamentary question: Promotion of tourism in within the EU itself

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 9/8/2017

Romanian Socialist (S&D) Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Claudia Țăpădel asked the European Commission what measures it is taking to promote mass tourism within the EU. She cited a Eurostat statistics as saying that a growing number of European cannot afford to go on holidays. *The question should be answered within six weeks.*

Temporary border controls might end in 2017

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 8/8/2017

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Avramopoulos is confident that temporary border controls imposed by five EU Member States will end in 2017. He said it in an answer given to a question table by Dutch Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) Auke Zijlstra (ENF) and Peter Lundgren (EFDD). In the answer, the Commissioner stresses that the current exemptions to the requirements of the Schengen area given to five member states are exceptional and the result of concerns that 'put at risk the whole Schengen area.'

European Parliament suggests changes to planned European Travel Information System

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 19/07/2017

The European Parliament has proposed changes to the planned ETIAS (European travel information and authorization system) ([draft text](#), published on 8th June), both would make it harder to visit the EU:

- **Fee structure:** German EPP MEP Monika Hohlmeier suggests **raising the authorization fee** from five to twelve EUR; Spanish Xabier Benito Ziluaga (left-wing - GUE political group) proposes a varied fee from five to ten depending on the GDP of the origin country;
- **Validity:** Belgian Liberal Gérard Deprez **proposes three years instead of five** (in line with the [Council position](#))

Procedure: These amendments will be debated further in the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee and later voted through to form the Parliament's version of the proposal. Once the Parliament finalizes its version, they will enter negotiations with the Council (who's version has been adopted already in June).

IAAPA supported the Network of European Private Entrepreneurs in the tourism Sector (NET) [letter](#) on the subject.

If you have any questions regarding the procedure or need further information, contact your IAAPA EGR team.

Tourism industry and allied politicians call on Commission to step up tourism strategy

Source: [Committee of the Regions](#) – 17/7/2017

On July 17th MEP Ujhelyi was one of 40 MEPs joined by more than 70 Members of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and representatives of Europe's tourism industry who [called](#) for a comprehensive strategy supporting the tourism sector in an [open letter](#) addressed to the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker.

A few days before this announcement (11th July) EU Commissioner Bieńkowska³ appeared in the Parliament to talk about current tourism priorities. According to her, the main challenges

³ Commissioner portfolio: [Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs](#)

are the collaborative economy, digitalisation, innovation and the necessity of a European brand. She underlined that EU has no real legislative competence in this area.

EU funds partnerships to promote European tourism in China and the US

Source: [Partnerships in European Tourism](#) – 14/7/2017

Europe is planning a programme of educational conferences and matchmaking events to promote itself as a tourist destination to some of the world's most important outbound travel markets, China and the United States.

Parliamentary question: Five EU Member States still not in US visa waiver programme

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 14/7/2017

French centre-right (EPP) Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Alain Cadec asked what the Commission is doing to support the remaining five EU Member States that are still not part of the United States' visa waiver programme. *The question should be answered within six weeks.*

European Parliament research paper on sources of EU funding for tourism activities

Source: [European Parliament](#) – July 2017

The European Parliament produced a [list](#) of EU funding sources that may include funding opportunities for projects related to tourism. There is no specific EU fund dedicated to tourism. This paper aims to list EU funds that may help to boost its prospects and address its challenges.

Difficulties in transposing the package travel and combined travel services directive

Source: [European Parliament](#) – 27/7/2017

In response to a question by German centre-right Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Birgit Collin-Langen (EPP), the EU Justice and Consumer Rights Commissioner Jourova said the Commission is actively supporting the Member States through regular transposition workshops and bilateral contacts. Key issues so far have been the definitions of "package" and "linked travel arrangements" (LTAs), among others. She added that the Commission will submit a preliminary evaluation of the application of the new rules at the beginning of 2019 and a general report at the beginning of 2021.

Employment, skills and social issues

EU launches website with unified classification for skills, including amusement park jobs

Source: [European Commission](#) – 28/07/2017

The Commission has launched the first full version of the [European classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications \(ESCO\)](#). The classification is available in 26

languages and provides common definitions to describe skills, competences and qualification with the ambition to make hiring and job seeking easier across Europe. There are great many amusement park and tourism related skills in the database.

Parliamentary question: MEP asks Commission on status of work-life balance in the EU

Source: European Parliament, [E-004894-17](#) – 14/07/2017

Romanian ECR MEP Monica Macovei asked what the Commission is doing to ensure the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. She also asked for a report on the present work-life balance situation in each Member State. *The question should be answered within six weeks.*

Parliamentary question: Improving skills in future EU tourism

Source: [European Parliament](#), [E-004694-17](#) – 12/07/2017

Czech EPP MEP Tomas Zdechovský and Romanian ECR MEP Monica Macovei asked the Commission how it plans to increase training on general issues connected with tourism, such as language skills and the skills of young people. *The question should be answered within six weeks.*

Get involved & have your say in the EU

Consultation on EU legislation on the legal migration of non-EU citizens

Source: [European Commission](#) – 19/06/2017

There is an opportunity to have your say on future EU legislation: The European Commission is collecting evidence, experiences, data and opinions to support its evaluation of the existing EU legal framework for legal migration (only referring to laws that are applicable to non-EU nationals). The evaluation aims to assess EU's added value and identify possible gaps in the EU legislation framework. Businesses and employers are among the stakeholder groups invited to participate. Deadline for responding is 18th September 2017. Answers can be submitted electronically [here](#). You can review the questions prior to starting an online submission [here](#).

Public consultation on the targeted revision of EU consumer law directives

Source: [European Commission](#) – 30/06/2017

There is an opportunity to submit evidence to the European Commission to help assess whether legislative changes are necessary in the following areas:

- Transparency on whom consumers conclude contracts with and whether EU consumer rights are applicable to such contracts
- Extension of some consumer rights to contracts for online services
- Individual redress/remedies for consumers harmed by unfair commercial practices
- Financial penalties to tackle breaches of consumer laws

Deadline: 8th October 2017

EU Events

A selection of events that IAAPA EMEA is following for you:

September:

European Parliament to Hold High Level Conference on Tourism on 27 September

Source: [NECSTour](#)

Conference organized by European Parliament President Antonio Tajani, and will focus on “A European strategy to enhance the competitiveness of the tourism industry, a key driver for job creation.”

Discussion will focus on three main areas:

- Supporting investments, improving the business environment and upgrading skills;
- Tourism innovation and digital economy;

Other events:

- 27th September 2017; Committee of the Regions: “EU financing Innovation in Tourism ([info](#))

October:

- 9-10 October, Brussels: [Conference to showcase European classification of Skills, Competences, Occupations and Qualifications \(ESCO\)](#)
- 18-19 October, Tallinn, Estonia: European Tourism Forum, Estonian Presidency and the European Commission

November:

- 28- 29 November: European Tourism Day, European Commission, Brussels

News from EU Member States

France: New accessibility rules at public places (incl. parks) in France

Source: [Service-Public.fr](#)

A new decree comes into force on 30th September in France obliging operators of any public place, including recreational and cultural sites, to make publicly available the facility’s accessibility information or ‘accessibility registry’. The information must be publicly accessible at the main reception point of the site, or be available online, and should contain:

- Complete information on the services provided in the establishment
- The administrative and technical documents relating to the accessibility of the establishment to persons with disabilities:
- The document helping the reception of people with disabilities
- The list of accessibility equipment
- The description of the training activities for personnel responsible for the reception of disabled persons

(Among other documents and information)

Legal docs and sources:

- [Public Accessibility Registry Decree](#)
- [Decree establishing the content, dissemination and updating of the public accessibility register](#)
- [Decree on accessibility of handicapped persons to establishments under construction and facilities open to the public during their development](#)

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