

## Advancing an International Code for Protection of Tourists

**Madrid, Spain, 27 November 2020** – *The Committee for the Development of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists has met for a second time, bringing the establishment of the landmark legal framework a step closer to being realized.*

UNWTO hosted the consultative virtual meeting which counted on the participation of 92 Member States, as well as one Associate Member. Joining them to inform the discussions were **legal experts from several global regions**, all of them members of the special Consultative Group as well as introducing the Observers, international organizations both governmental and non-governmental that will join forces with UNWTO in the development of the Code and guarantee that the result is a well representative and balanced set of standards

The diverse range of observers reflected the strong interest in an International Code designed to **offer tourists greater protection as consumers** and to spread the responsibility of assisting tourists affected by emergency situations across the whole of the sector. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, which is responsible for the **EU's tourism policies highlighted its interest in following this project in view of the potential commonalities with the Commission's work.**

Joining them were the representative from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Additionally, and **highlighting strong interest from the private sector** in the work of the Committee, a number of business organizations and member groups took part as observers, among them the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and Hotrec, which represents the European hospitality sector.

Participants of the Committee also elected a Chair (Brazil) and Vice-Chair (Greece).

### Related Links:

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