NOTIFICATION TEMPLATE FOR PUBLIC GUARANTEES ON VOUCHERS
FOR PASSENGERS AND TRAVELLERS

On 13 May 2020, the Commission adopted the Recommendation on vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.\(^1\)

The Recommendation refers to the possibility to set up public schemes for guarantees on vouchers granted by operators in the travel and transport sector to ensure that consumers are reimbursed in case of insolvency of the issuer of the voucher.

The Commission invites Member States to provide in their notification:

- the general information under Section I (including the language waiver in Annex I) and
- the additional information under the different points in Section II

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Description of the serious disturbance in the economy of your country and the official reaction of your authorities

Considering that the COVID-19 outbreak affects all Member States and that the containment measures taken by Member States impact undertakings in the travel and transport sector in particular, the Commission considers that State aid, in the form of public guarantee schemes on vouchers to ensure that in case of insolvency of the issuer of the voucher consumers are reimbursed, is justified and can be declared compatible with the internal market on the basis of Article 107(3)(b) TFEU.

The information below aims at clarifying the country specific situation:

- Data on the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak in your country, notably in the sectors covered by the scheme, information on liquidity shortage faced by undertakings, if available,

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\(^1\) Commission Recommendation of 13.05.2020 on vouchers offered to passengers and travellers as an alternative to reimbursement for cancelled package travel and transport services in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, C(2020) 3125
• Sequence of (main) events between the occurrence and the adoption of the notified measure including any official recommendations or prohibitions decided by the competent authorities.

2. **General description of the public guarantee**

- National legal basis - please provide a copy;
- Granting authority and competent authority to manage the scheme, if different;
- Objective of the notified aid measure;
- Budget;
- Geographical scope;
- Beneficiaries: estimated number / sectors concerned / size of companies concerned, if relevant / exclusions from scope;
- Duration:
  - Date of entry into force of the scheme:
  - Confirmation of compliance with 108(3) TFEU:\(^2\):
  - Time period in which beneficiaries can submit application for aid:
  - Latest date until which individual aid will be granted under the notified measure:

3. **General confirmations and commitments:**

- Confirm if aid in the form of public guarantee on vouchers may be cumulated with de minimis aid:\(^3\) and/or with aid under the General Block Exemption Regulation:\(^4\); in such a case, confirm that the provisions of the relevant Regulations will be respected;

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\(^2\) No aid granted or paid out before notification and approval by Commission.


• Commit to comply with all the monitoring and reporting provisions in section 4 of the Temporary Framework\(^5\) COVID-19 as amended on 3 April\(^6\) and on 8 May 2020\(^7\);

• Confirm that the notification does not contain confidential information. Otherwise, indicate the information from the notification that contains confidential information;

• If the scheme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF), Cohesion Fund (CF), European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) or the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII), please confirm that the rules applicable under these Funds will be respected;

• Please provide the language waiver in Annex I.

**SECTION II: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

1. Confirm that the measure/scheme respect the following conditions;
   a. The guarantee is granted by 31 December 2020 at the latest;
   b. The guarantee does not exceed 100% of the total value of the vouchers;
   c. The guarantee scheme applies to all consumers covered by the Package Travel Directive and/or the relevant passenger rights regulations regardless of their service provider.

2. Please describe the following:
   • Maximum amount of the guarantee (as % of the total amount of vouchers),
   • Duration of the guarantee,
   • Describe the level of guarantee premiums and the calculation method,

   Please note in this regard that the Commission will take into consideration the minimal rates established in the section 3.2 of the Temporary Framework in its assessment:

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\(^7\) Communication from the Commission – Amendment to the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, OJ C 164, 13.5.2020, p. 3–15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of recipient</th>
<th>Up to 1 year</th>
<th>2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>SMEs</td>
<td>25 bps</td>
<td>50 bps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large enterprises</td>
<td>50 bps</td>
<td>100 bps</td>
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</tbody>
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3. Confirm that the mobilisation of the guarantees is contractually linked to specific conditions which have to be agreed between the parties when the guarantee is initially granted;

4. Describe any other additional conditions imposed in the aid scheme.
Annex I - Language waiver

In order to speed up the processing of the notification, the below language waiver should be provided with the notification, on letterhead of the relevant authorities, dated and signed.

Due to the urgent need to adopt and notify a Decision in relation to the present notification relating to [brief description of the scheme subject to the notification], the [national: specify] government agrees exceptionally to waive its rights deriving from Art. 342 TFEU in conjunction with Art. 3 of the EC Regulation 1/1958 and to have the planned Decision adopted and notified pursuant to Article 297 of the Treaty in English language.