

**Question for written answer E-003917/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elsi Katainen (Renew)

Subject: Review of the Package Travel Directive

The travel industry has seen some very challenging times, first because of the COVID-19 pandemic and then on account of Russia's war of aggression, the effects of both of which will still be felt for a long time to come. In addition to the recent crises, the digital transition has had a major impact on the structures of the travel and tourism industry, and new operators have entered the sector who use, for example, the platform economy and online services. It is therefore a constructive move on the part of the Commission that it should plan a review of the Package Travel Directive to reflect the current market and the realities of the present time. However, COVID-19 posed legislative challenges for creating a level playing field in the single market, so it is important that the rules and obligations in the review are the same for one and all.

I would like to ask the Commission:

1. How does the Commission intend to guarantee a level playing field for all travel ecosystem operators in the review process, taking into account, for example, that the new operators have extended their sales activities to include package travel products and that they are not necessarily subject to the same rules and obligations as tour operators and travel agencies?
2. There are many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the travel industry that sell package travel. If, for example, there are more obligations regarding deposits, how does the Commission intend to ensure that SMEs are able to survive in the future?

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