

European Alliance for Coach Tourism

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PRESS RELEASE (2 Pages)

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Willy Della Valle elected Chairman and Richard Eberhardt elected Co-Chairman

The members of the European Alliance for Coach Tourism (EACT) met for a working session on the 12th October in Cologne at the headquarters of RDA.

In order to define sustainable structures of EACT Willy Della Valle, president of the Italian Federation CONFARTIGIANATO Autobus Operators, was elected chairman of the Alliance. By his active participation the Italian entrepreneur who has a broad network all over Europe could already achieve placing coach relevant issues on the agenda of the EU. Under his aegis the Italian federation CONFARTIGIANATO became one of the initiators of the alliance. Richard Eberhardt, president of RDA and IBV, was elected Co-Chairman by the participants. The members agreed unanimously upon the voting.

Topics during the working session of the alliance were, among other issues, taxes in Europe and particularly the different rates of VAT in the European Union. With the aim of discussing this problem on European level a working group, (consisting of Jean Wyns, Toni Schönfelder and Stephen Smith) was set up.

Moreover, measures to reduce existing discriminations against coach tourism compared to other modes of transport in Europe were discussed. Particularly bearing in mind that coach tourism fulfils vital economic and social functions. Medium-sized coach tour operators contribute significantly to the accessibility and development of tourism in rural areas and hinterland regions, thereby supporting European tourism policy objectives. Moreover, coach tourism operators and their contract partners secure millions of jobs in Europe.

To promote the exchange of experience and ideas in marketing, the transfer of corresponding skills as well as the image of coach travel a working group under the direction of Sean Taggart (Chairman CTC) was set up. The EACT welcomes that addi-

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tional European Federations demonstrated their interest in joining the alliance. Richard Eberhardt, president of IBV and RDA, was confident at the end of the meeting: “It is clear that we are on the right path and that only together we can make a change in Europe.”

Members of the European Alliance for Coach Tourism:

- B.A.A.V. Busworld
- CONFARTIGIANATO
- CTC Coach Tourism Council (UK)
- CPT Confederation of Passenger Transport UK
- F.B.A.A., Belgian Bus Operators' Association
- FNTV ALSACE Fédération Nationale des Transports de Voyageurs d'Alsace
- RDA and IBV
- Swedish National Coach Operators' Organisation

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