

PRESS RELEASE

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EACT: New member

Spanish CONFEBUS strengthens alliance

A new member federation strengthens the European Alliance for Coach Tourism (EACT). EACT Chairman, Stephen Smith, welcomed the Spanish coach operators' federation CONFEBUS (<http://www.confebus.org/>) as a new EACT member and emphasized that EACT – with the addition of this new member from Southern Europe – now offers a highly effective platform for representing members' interests on a political level throughout Europe.

CONFEBUS voted to join the European Alliance for Coach Tourism (EACT) at a recent meeting of its *Junta Directiva*. Mr. Rafael Barbadillo, President of CONFEBUS, stated: "Coach tourism presents a wonderful opportunity to travel and enjoy Spain's historic, cultural, artistic, industrial and sporting heritage – without adding either to global traffic congestion or to traffic volume. Indeed, coach tourism is without a doubt capable of further expansion. That is why we believe that joining EACT will allow us to benefit from all of its inherent advantages."

CONFEBUS is the voice of 3,400 Spanish coach companies with a total of 42,000 coaches, more than 80,000 employees and an annual turnover of 3 billion Euros.

Jaime Rodríguez Medal, Director of CONFEBUS: "We support EACT in all its efforts to highlight the benefits of coach tourism for local communities to those responsible for governing Europe's towns and cities. We are delighted to be part of this important alliance."

EACT Secretary General, Dieter Gauf, adds: "This new member means that our coach tourism network is becoming tighter and broader. Spain – one of the most significant destinations for European coach tourism – is now represented in EACT. Moreover, Spain is the most important destination for German travellers and one of the leading tourism destinations worldwide."

RDA-President, Benedikt Esser, is not only delighted about a new EACT partner federation but is also very confident that the RDA Group Travel Expos – Europe's largest B2B trade-only platforms for the coach and group tourism sector – will benefit from this strong new member.

History of the European Alliance for Coach Tourism:

Eight leading coach tourism federations and organisations came together on 18th July 2012 in Cologne to establish the European Alliance for Coach Tourism (EACT). Their core purpose was to remove fiscal, taxation and administrative barriers to coach tourism and to promote the image of coach holiday travel. The goal of EACT is to develop and engage in joint initiatives and measures and to share expertise, know-how and networks. EACT also relies on active participation and co-operation with related organisations and industry federations. Additionally, EACT members' respective national lobbying networks enable the alliance to reach out to European Union decision-makers and political representatives from different countries and regions in a targeted and effective manner.

European Alliance for Coach Tourism Members:

- BAAV Beroepsvereniging van Autobus- en Autocarondernemers van West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
- Busworld, Belgium and global
- Car Tourisme Suisse, Switzerland
- CONFARTIGIANATO Trasporti, Italy
- CONFEBUS, Confederación Española de Transporte en Autobús, Spain
- CPT Confederation of Passenger Transport, UK
- CTA Coach Tourism Association, UK
- CTTC – Coach Tourism and Transport Council of Ireland
- ETOA – European Tourism Association, London
- FNTV ALSACE Fédération Nationale des Transports de Voyageurs d'Alsace, France
- MUISZ – Association of Hungarian Travel Agencies, Hungary
- RDA International Coach Tourism Federation, Germany
- Swedish National Coach Organisation, Sweden