



CIRCULAR TO ALL GTA MEMBERS

Dear GTA Member,

Please be informed that today the European Parliament gave its final green light to the EU Digital Covid Certificate. Today MEPs completed the legislative work on the EU digital COVID Certificate package to facilitate travel within the EU and contribute to the economic recovery. Below are the main points about this certification

All EU member states will accept the certificates proving vaccination, negative test result or recovery from a COVID infection.

- It should facilitate free movement and contribute to restrictions being lifted gradually in a coordinated manner.
- It should apply from 1 July 2021 and be in place for 12 months.
- Affordable and accessible testing is encouraged: €100 million in EU funds to purchase tests.

The certificate will be issued free of charge by national authorities and be available in either digital or paper format containing a QR code. The document will certify that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, has a recent negative test result or has recovered from the infection. In practice, these will be three distinct certificates. A common EU framework will make certificates interoperable and verifiable across the European Union, as well as prevent fraud and forgery.

The system will apply from 1 July 2021 and be in place for 12 months. The certificate will not be a precondition for free movement and will not be considered a travel document.

Additional travel restrictions only if duly justified

During the inter-institutional negotiations, MEPs secured an agreement that EU states will not be able to impose additional travel restrictions on certificate holders -such as quarantine, self-isolation or testing- "unless they are necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health". Scientific evidence, "including epidemiological data published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)" will have to be taken into account. The measures should be notified if possible 48 hours in advance to other member states and the Commission, and the public should be given 24 hours' notice.

Vaccines

All EU countries must accept vaccination certificates issued in other member states for vaccines authorised by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). It will be up to the member states to decide whether they also accept certificates for vaccines authorised following national authorisation procedures or for vaccines listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for emergency use.

Thanks and best regards

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