



BT4Europe
European Network of Business Travel Associations

PRESS RELEASE

BT4Europe Urges Simplification of EU's A1 Form for Cross-Border Business Travel

Brussels, 10 December 2024 – BT4Europe, the European Network of Business Travel Associations, has submitted its recommendations to address the bureaucratic challenges of the EU's A1 form requirements as part of Axel Voss MEP's Call for Input.

With the European Commission's commitment to reducing regulatory burdens by at least 25% for large companies and 35% for SMEs, BT4Europe emphasizes the need for immediate reforms to enable seamless cross-border mobility.

Streamlining Cross-Border Work: A Priority for EU Competitiveness:

Since 2010, businesses across Europe have faced significant administrative hurdles due to A1 form requirements for cross-border activities, even for short-term business trips lasting just a few days. BT4Europe's submission highlights the urgent need to revise these requirements, which currently hinder operational efficiency and Europe's economic competitiveness.

Survey Findings Reveal Widespread Impact

A recent BT4Europe survey demonstrates the burden on businesses:

- Over 90% of companies need A1 forms for trips under 14 days more than six times a year.
- 60% say A1 form obligations disproportionately impact their operations compared to other regulatory requirements.
- 95% see a fully digitized A1 process as "very" or "extremely beneficial."
- Over 80% support a 14-day exemption for short-term trips to improve efficiency.

Key Recommendations from BT4Europe

To address these challenges, BT4Europe calls for:

1. **Exemptions for Short-Term Trips:** A 14-day exemption for activities such as business meetings, trade fairs, and training events to ease the administrative burden on businesses.
2. **Expanded Definition of Business Travel:** Inclusion of broader temporary professional activities, such as client meetings, internal audits, industry events, and recruitment efforts.
3. **Mandatory Digitization:** A fully digital A1 form system for trips exceeding 14 days, ensuring harmonization across all Member States.

Driving Simplification and Digital Transformation

BT4Europe's recommendations align with the European Commission's goals to streamline processes, reduce reporting obligations, and enhance digitalization. By narrowing the scope of the A1 form, exempting short-term trips, and mandating digital systems, the EU can improve cross-border business travel and strengthen its Single Market.

Quote from BT4Europe

"Streamlining A1 form requirements is not just about reducing paperwork; it's about empowering businesses to thrive in a connected Europe," said Odete Pimenta da Silva – Founding Member BT4Europe. "Our proposed reforms will enable businesses of all sizes to operate more efficiently while supporting the EU's broader goals of simplification and sustainability."

Patrick Diemer – Chair of BT4Europe added: "We are pleased that the BT4EUROPE position now aligns with that of the new Commissioner for Transport and Tourism Tzitzikostas, who is committed to delivering paperless travel by 2030"

About BT4Europe

BT4Europe is the European Network Business Travel Associations advocating for the interests of business travel buyers and users across Europe. Aligned with EU goals, it focuses on sustainability, resilience, and promoting paperless solutions to shape the future of business travel

For more information about BT4Europe please visit bt4europe.com

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