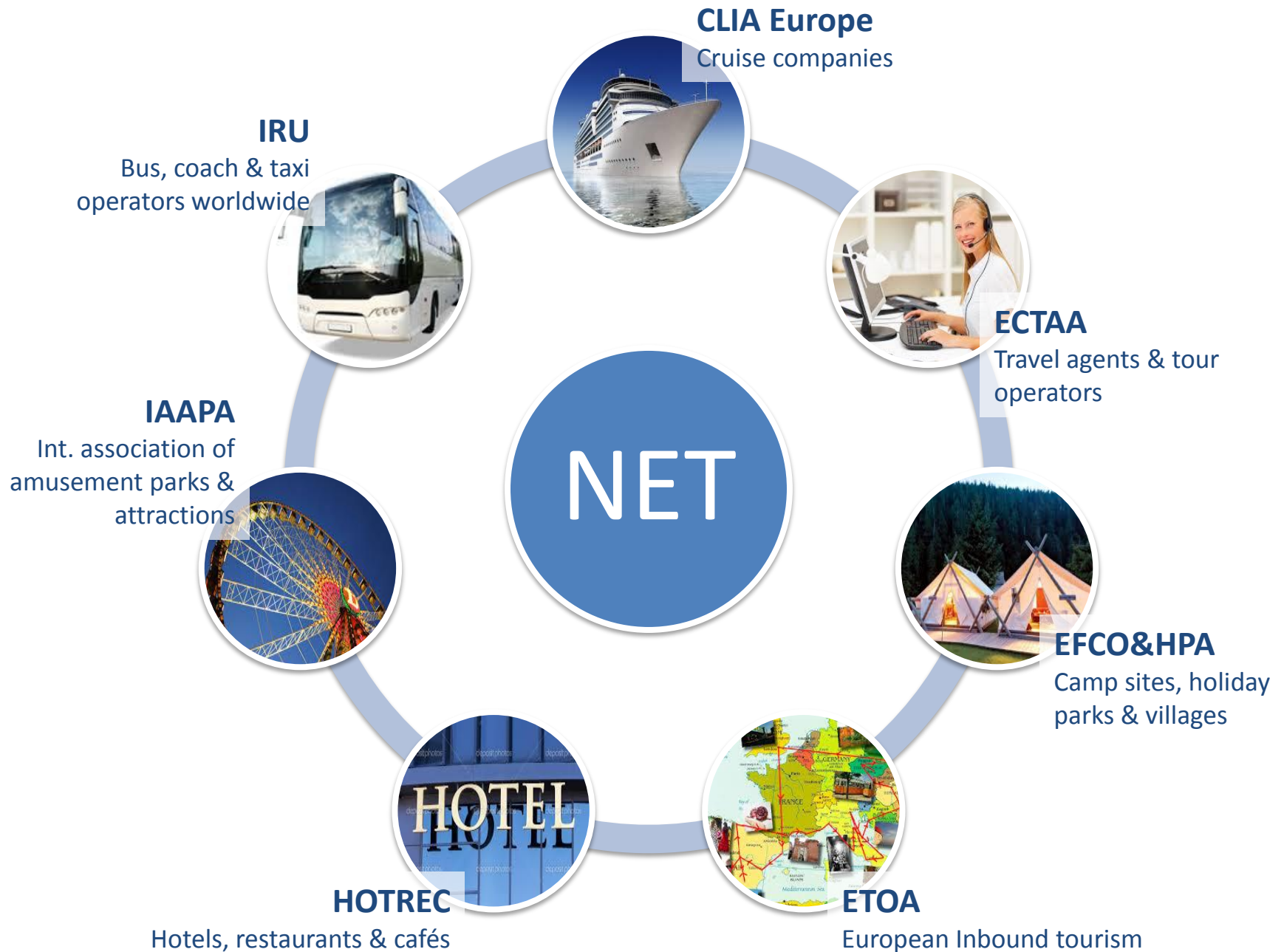


Visa Package Hearing
European Parliament, 17 June 2015

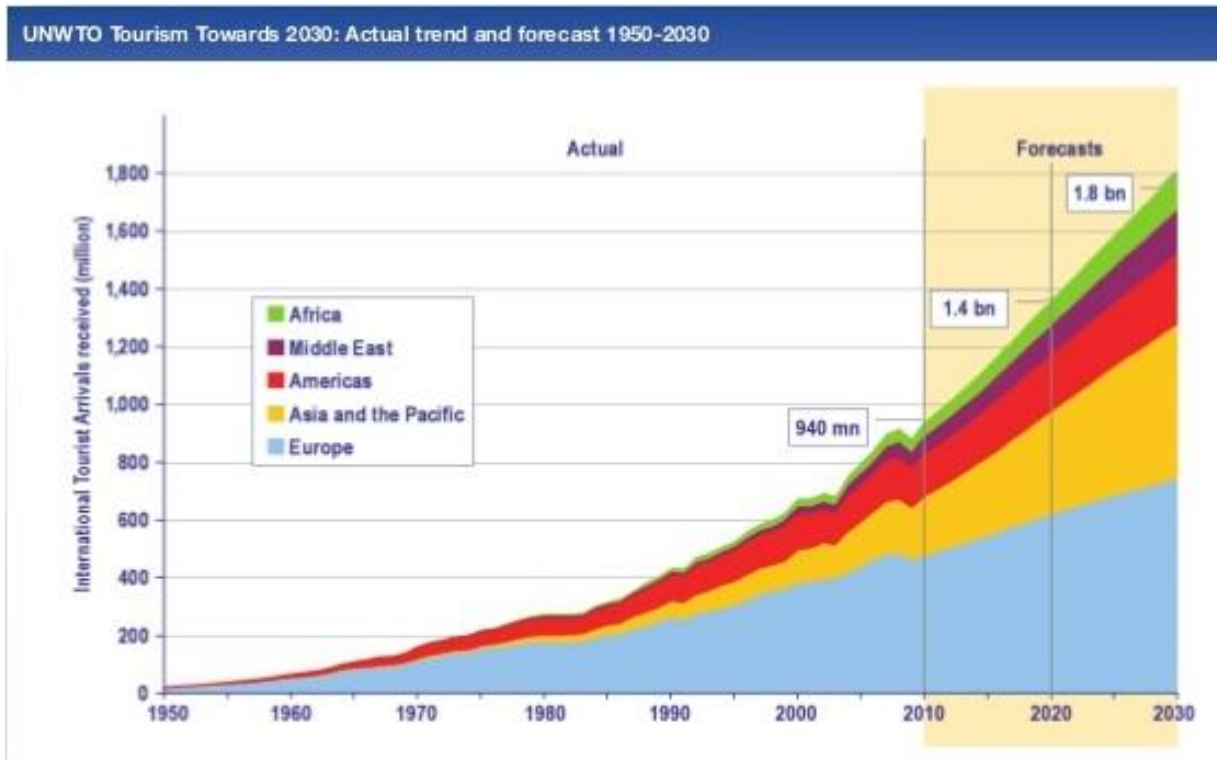


Tourism is an engine for economic growth



- 10% of EU GDP
- 10 million jobs
- 3rd largest socio-economic activity in the EU

Europe is still No 1 destination in the world – but losing market share to other destinations



Source: UNWTO

Impact of visa facilitation



European Commission study

Mix of facilitation options could result yearly in:

- ➔ 13 - 14 million travellers
- ➔ Direct total spending between €22 - 25 billion
- ➔ 260.000 more jobs

NET welcomes the visa package!

Visa applications
should be:

clear

easy

accessible

affordable

effective

NET supports Commission proposals:

- Common Schengen website
- Increase consular coverage
- Facilitation for regular travellers - MEV
- Reduction of processing times
- Visa fee waiver extension
- Suppression of medical travel insurance
- Visa at the external border
- Introduction of a touring visa

NET amendment proposals

Definition of regular traveller – *Article 2 § 9*

Include travellers who have been issued:

- Visa with longer validity
- Visa for long-term stays (type 'D')
- Residence permits

NET amendment proposals

Consular coverage - Mandatory representation obligation – *Article 5*

Allow visa application to any MS where:

- competent MS not present or represented
- OR competent MS is more than 500km from the place of residence of applicant or travel requires an overnight stay

NET amendment proposals

Procedural facilitation for seafarers:

Allow to:

- lodge visa application up to 12 months before intended visit – *Article 8 § 1*
- Include as ‘regular travellers’ even if they have only obtained 1 visa in a 12 month period – *Article 2 § 9*
- lodge an application at the border – *Article 34 § 1*

NET amendment proposals

Supporting documents – *Annex II*

- Document relating to accommodation or proof of sufficient means to cover accommodation – in line with Article 13 § 1 b)

NET amendment proposals

Common Schengen website – Article 45 § 4

- Languages!
- Contact details & links of MS consulates

Thank you for your attention!

For more details visit our website:

www.net-tourism.eu

or contact one of the NET Members