



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ



ΑΑΔΕ

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PRESS RELEASE

IAPR: Signing of the revised MoUs with digital platforms Airbnb, Booking.com and VRBO (Expedia)

The Independent Authority for Public Revenue, in a continuous constructive dialogue with the leading Short-Term Rental (STR) digital platforms Airbnb, Booking.com and VRBO (Expedia Group), signed an updated protocol of cooperation.

The agreed amendments lead to a qualitative and quantitative upgrade of the exchanged data in order to be managed more effectively by the IAPR, with the aim to fully ensure the identification of property managers for compliance and audit purposes.

In line with the new agreement, the STR platforms:

- Introduce syntax validation in the field where the Property Registration Numbers (PRNs) are filled, in order mistakes and abuses by property managers to be avoided.
- They additionally send the name and surname of the IBAN account holder to help identify and audit managers. They include the total annual rentals (nights) of each Listing.
- They return to the IAPR, in file format, data with the property managers that failed to comply after the notifications they have received to fill in or correct their PRN.
- They exchange data on a mandatory basis using a specific file format, which facilitates and speeds up the process.

In addition, classification into STR and non-STR Listings, according to their commercial model, is being extended to all platforms.

The IAPR Governor, Giorgos Pitsilis, stated: “We constantly pursue collaboration solutions with market stakeholders which are able to contribute in fighting tax evasion. Signing the updated MoUs with the three leading Short-Term Rental platforms further enhances the effectiveness of this practice, which has become an international benchmark and has led to a ten-fold increase of declared income deriving from Short-Term Rentals”.

From Airbnb's side, the Head of Public Policy & Campaign for Southern Europe of Airbnb, Valentina Reino, noted that this MoU with IAPR has proved to be an example of good practice throughout Europe as it sets a clear framework for the obligations of property owners, enhancing transparency and supporting a level playing field for all platforms. “At Airbnb we are very happy to continue our successful collaboration with the Tax Authority that allows Greek families significantly support responsible tourism. We are committed to continuing this partnership with the Greek government and authorities in the future to ensure the smooth and effective operation of STR in the country”.

In the same context, on behalf of VRBO, the vacation rental brand of Expedia Group, Iban Rabasa, Senior Manager of Government Affairs, underlined how the MoU is an important public-private initiative. “The MoU guarantees transparency to the short-term rental sector and allows owners and property managers to undertake their activity in compliance with Greek law”. It lets users fully benefit from the tourism and travel industry recovery while collaborating with the Greek State to value the contribution of vacation rentals to the Greek economy. He has also added “We look forward to continuing to work closely with all interested stakeholders to promote sustainable growth in the sector and ensure an appropriate regulatory framework for STR”.

Finally, representing Booking.com, Katerina Shearer, Senior Public Affairs Manager, emphasized that Booking.com is very pleased with the productive collaboration with the Authority to renew this agreement, which continues to bring clarity and transparency to the short-term rental sector in Greece. She pointed out that the Greek government has taken a proactive stance ahead of the EU by implementing clear and enforceable legislation, built upon a national registration system and streamlined data sharing requirements. This approach ensures a level playing field for all stakeholders, benefitting travelers, home owners and local economies. She noted in closing that Booking.com sees travel as a force for good, and that online travel platforms have a crucial role in helping the tourism sector make the twin transition towards a greener, more digital and more resilient future in a post Covid world.

