



RAPID

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA

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- **Schengen Borders Code: Systematic checks of EU citizens crossing external Schengen borders mandatory as of today**

As of today, Member States are obliged to carry out systematic checks against relevant databases on EU citizens who are crossing the EU's external borders, in addition to the systematic checks already being carried out on all third-country nationals entering the Schengen zone. Proposed by the Commission in a direct response to the attacks in Paris in November 2015 and the growing threat from foreign terrorist fighters, the new rules - adopted by the Council on 7 March - strengthen the management of our external borders. The revision ensures a good balance between the current security challenges and the need to avoid disproportionate impacts on traffic flows at border crossings. Alongside the ongoing roll-out of the European Border and Coast Guard, the reinforcement of the Schengen Borders Code reflects the EU's joint commitment to preserving the freedom of movement within the Schengen area and ensuring the security of EU citizens.

- **Booking your holidays online: Commission and consumer protection authorities act on misleading travel booking websites**

The European Commission and EU consumer protection authorities launched a coordinated screening of 352 price comparison and travel booking websites across the EU in October 2016, as these services were among the most frequent consumer complaints according to the European Consumer Centres. They found that prices were not reliable on 235 websites, two thirds of the sites checked. For example, additional price elements were added at a late stage of the booking process without clearly informing the consumer or promotional prices did not correspond to any available service. Věra **Jourová**, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, said: "*The Internet provides consumers with plenty of information to prepare, compare and book their holidays. However, if the reviews on comparison websites are biased or prices are not transparent, these websites are misleading consumers. The companies concerned need to respect the European consumer rules, just like a travel agent would. Consumer authorities will now require the websites to solve these issues. Consumers deserve the same protection online as offline.*" Authorities have asked the websites concerned to bring their practices in line with EU consumer legislation, which requires them to be fully transparent about prices, and present their offers in a clear way, at an early stage of the booking process. A [press release](#), a [Q&A](#) and a [factsheet](#) are available online.

- **Commission addresses regulatory barriers for innovators by signing first Innovation Deal on water reuse**

Today, the European Commission, together with 14 partners from national and regional authorities, universities, knowledge centres, innovators and end-users, delivers on its commitment to help innovators overcome perceived regulatory barriers by signing the first Innovation Deal on "Sustainable Waste Water Treatment Combining Anaerobic Membrane Technology (AnMbR) and Water Reuse". Carlos **Moedas**, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: *"The Innovation Deals is an instrument towards a more modern and responsive administration that helps innovators facing regulatory obstacles to innovation in the existing EU legislative framework. Implementing Innovation Deals shows that we are changing as an institution, from only setting rules to being pragmatic and pro-active in helping achieve policy objectives through innovation"*. Karmenu **Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries said: *"This first 'Innovation Deal' on water helps in our push for a [circular economy](#). It comes as we are about to check how European water policy is working. We want our policy to be simpler to put in place and easier to use. The Innovation Deal helps us do this"*. The Innovation Deal will explore solutions to overcome the perceived barriers, what the impacts and consequences of the solutions may be and which stakeholders should be involved. The Commission may decide to start follow-up actions. More information in the News Alert will be available [here](#) from 13.00 and you can find more information on Innovation Deals [here](#).

Para mais informações sobre assuntos europeus:
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