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**NOTE**

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From: The European Commission  
To: The High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth  
Subject: Collaborative economy tourism accommodation

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Delegations will find in Annex a note from the Commission on Collaborative economy tourism accommodation in view of the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth meeting on 26 January 2017.

**COLLABORATIVE ECONOMY – UPDATE BY THE COMMISSION**

In its Communication on the European Agenda for the Collaborative Economy adopted in June 2016<sup>1</sup>, the Commission committed to working together with Member States and stakeholders to monitor developments in the collaborative economy and promote the exchange of best practices. This was also called for by Member States at the informal meeting of the Competitiveness Ministers in Amsterdam on 28 January 2016 and reiterated at the Competitiveness Council of 29 September 2016.

The June Communication on the collaborative economy identified lack of clarity on the applicable legislation and regulatory fragmentation as the two main challenges to a balanced development of the collaborative economy in the EU. The Commission underlined that the appropriate EU policy response is to provide legal guidance on the applicable EU law and policy recommendations on its application, rather than introducing additional rules at EU level. This approach was widely supported by Member States.

Following the adoption of the Communication, the Commission is carrying out a number of in-depth studies to monitor developments in the collaborative economy.<sup>2</sup> It is also facilitating the exchange of best practice among Member States and with stakeholders through workshops, seminars and conferences.

Given the very diverse sectors in which the collaborative economy is emerging, stakeholders and public authorities signalled that it would be advantageous to have a forum to discuss how to translate the general guidance and policy recommendations issued by the Commission in its June Communication into more concrete indications for specific services sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 356 final

<sup>2</sup> Inter alia exploratory study of consumer issues in the sharing economy; study on passenger transport by taxi, hire car with driver and ridesharing in the EU; foresight study for a shared vision on the collaborative economy for 2030; study on the assessment of the regulation affecting the collaborative economy in the tourism accommodation sector; study on taxation, entrepreneurship and collaborative economy.

In line with the Commission's endeavour to support Member States and stakeholders facing the regulatory challenges raised by the changing business models, the Commission services are organising workshops for Member States and stakeholders to present and discuss their regulatory practices, focussing at this stage on collaborative short-term accommodation rental services. Given the strong regional dimension, the Committee of the Regions has also been invited to participate in the workshops. The objective is to identify best practices and on that basis to identify a set of shared guiding policy principles which authorities could consider when developing measures in this particular sector.

Policy principles will be based on the existing EU legislation and its application to the collaborative economy as set out in the June 2016 Commission Communication. The outcome of the discussions and the identified shared principles could feed into a document that authorities could endorse so that they could consider them when developing policies and regulation of collaborative short-term accommodation rental services. Stakeholders would also be invited to endorse the policy principles. The objective would be to reduce regulatory fragmentation, facilitate the implementation of EU legislation and promote best practice, focussing on the key issues already identified in the June Communication.

A launch event and first workshop is planned for 14 February and national administrations, representatives of municipalities and regions as well as industry, consumer and employee associations have been invited to participate. Member States are called upon to provide suggestions, guidance and recommendations related to the above project that could be completed by the end of the year. The HLG will be kept informed and would be consulted on any draft policy principles.