



## Press release

# ACAve meets with the Ministry of Inclusion and Social Security to request the rapid activation of the RED Mechanism for travel agencies

- **At the meeting, it was requested that these sectorial ERTes be approved with the utmost urgency, so that travel agencies can apply them from next April 1 and can continue to adapt to the changes that the pandemic has brought about, avoiding thus closings of new companies.**

**March the 11st, 2021.-** ACAVE, the main employer in the travel agency sector in Spain with 450 associated agencies, today held a meeting with the Secretary of State for Social Security, Mr. Israel Arroyo, and the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Mrs. Maria Teresa Ledo, where they discussed the critical situation that this sector is going through, one of the most affected by the pandemic and which has led to a transformation of the sector with training needs.

During the meeting, the president of ACAVE, Martí Sarrate, and the manager of the association, Catiana Tur, expressed the urgency that the Council of Ministers activate the RED Mechanism so that travel agencies can, as of April 1, benefit from these new ERTES that will facilitate the continuity of companies and their transformation, adapting to the changes that the pandemic has brought about.

Travel agencies have been the sector that has suffered the most from the crisis caused by the pandemic, with an approximate loss of 15,000 jobs and with 28% of workers in ERTE, either totally or partially. To all this we must add that the recovery, which was already expected to be progressive until 2024, has been affected again by the unfortunate war that Ukraine is suffering. This conflict has resulted in cancellations of Spanish trips to Russia, and not least, in null expectations of reservations from the Russian market for the Spanish receptive sector.

### Implementation urgency

Given this scenario, the activation of the RED Mechanism is absolutely necessary and essential to allow the recovery of travel agencies and their readjustment to the new situation, while training workers, since it is important to highlight that it is a sector made up mainly of SMEs and Micro-SMEs. The haste is necessary, because after the approval by the Council of Ministers, the agencies will need time to comply with the procedures established in the current regulations for the approval of the respective files and that they can enter into force on next April 1, the date on which the COVID ERTES will cease to be in force, in accordance with the last extension approved by the Spanish Government.



Likewise, ACAVe has requested that the regulation provide for the retroactive nature of the RED Mechanism files that have been initiated before April 1, 2022 and that have not been approved before that date, all in order to prevent. On March 31, travel agencies have the possibility of continuing to benefit from the ERTE.

ACAVe has also requested that the RED Mechanism be approved for 1 year, which is the maximum period provided for in the regulations, with the possibility that once this period ends, the extensions that are also provided for in the same regulations are assessed.

Finally, ACAVe has emphasized the need for the agreement of the Council of Ministers that approves the activation of the RED Mechanism, to provide that the requalification plan, which must be presented by travel agencies that want to benefit from this RED Mechanism, adjusts to training, for which many travel agencies have already opted for workers to acquire new skills and abilities.

The Secretary of State for Social Security has expressed the Ministry's sensitivity to the travel agency sector, being fully aware of the situation it is going through and of the need to approve this sectorial Network Mechanism that would allow travel agencies face with greater security the process of transformation that the sector is undergoing and adequately train workers, as well as all the requests made by ACAVe.

### About ACAVE

The Corporate Association of Specialized Travel Agencies (ACAVe) is the employers' association for state-wide travel agencies based in Catalonia. ACAVe is the most representative Association in Spain with approximately **450 associates and around 1.000 points of sale throughout Spain**. Agencies of different types are part of the Association: holiday and corporate broadcasters, tour operators, coastal and city receptive, online and cruise agencies.

### For more information

Oriol García  
M + 34 608512909  
oriolgarcia@mahala.es

MAHALA

Comunicación  
y Relaciones Públicas