



Marketing platforms that collaborate with the Government of Catalonia remove offers of homes for tourist use that do not display their register number

- Niumba, TripAdvisor, Rentalia, HomeAway and Spain Holiday, members of the Spanish Association of Digital Temporary Rental Platforms (PAT), are examples of platforms working to comply with Catalan legislation.
- They are all making the appropriate changes on their websites to ensure that the offer published displays the register number.

Wednesday, 9 January 2019- As part of their collaboration with the Directorate General for Tourism (DGT), several tourist accommodation marketing platforms have now removed offers of homes for tourist use that fail to display the official register number required in Catalonia.

The platforms collaborating with the Government of Catalonia in this effort to combat the black economy are Booking –a forerunner in cooperation with the Government of Catalonia– and other organisations in the Spanish Association of Digital Temporary Rental Platforms (PAT): Niumba, TripAdvisor, Rentalia, HomeAway and Spain Holiday. They are all making appropriate changes to their websites in order to prevent the publication of offers that bear no register number. The Directorate General for Tourism intends this measure, first to make sure that the advertisements offer a guarantee for users and, second to combat unfair competition.

The collaboration between the Government and platforms is intended to ensure compliance with the Government of Catalonia’s tourism legislation regarding homes for tourist use. A significant number of the main platforms are indeed complying with tourism legislation and on some, 100% of the offers advertised bear the mandatory Catalan Tourist Board Register Identification Number. The High Court of Justice of Catalonia has repeatedly insisted that displaying this register number is required legally.

After the measures of dissuasion and control taken by the Directorate General for Tourism, as a show of responsibility most technology platforms have opted to collaborate. Director General for Tourism, Octavi Bono, maintains that **“the**



associations that belong to the PAT, just as Booking once did, show that if platforms so wish, they can comply perfectly with legislation and refrain from marketing illegal accommodation over which the government is unable to exert control”.

The DGT has continued monitoring what the main platforms offer and in the last two years has demanded the removal of nearly 56,000 offers of accommodation (some 28,000 in 2017 and 27,900 in 2018) that did not display this identification. Over the last year, eight actions have been filed against new web platforms.

Since the inspection and control campaign started in 2013, the DGT has inspected over 24,800 administrators and owners of homes for tourist use and this has led to the issue of 1,358 penalty proceedings against owners and administrators in Catalonia as a whole. Of these, 1,096 were resolved with the imposition of penalties ranging from 3,001 to 30,000 euros and amounting to a total of over 6.5 million euros.

Regulation process

Six years after the start of the process to regulate homes for tourist use and holiday apartments in Catalonia, over 75,000 establishments (74,781 homes for tourist use and 251 holiday apartments) have now been regulated, which represents an overall regulation of over 425,725 available room nights. This accounts for 85.15% of the 500,000 room nights that the Directorate General for Tourism considers to be the potential offering for these types of tourist accommodation.

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