

Booking, Etraveli investigation restarts in EU

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By [Natalie McNelis](#)

Booking's bid to take over online flight travel agency Etraveli is back on the EU regulator's clock after four months of suspension. The European Commission resumed its review on April 18, according to an update to its website today, and it now has until Aug. 30 to decide on the deal.

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The watchdog now has until Aug. 30 to decide on the deal.

It opened an in-depth investigation into the deal last November, voicing concerns that it would allow Booking to strengthen its position in the market for online travel agencies, or OTAs, selling accommodation (see [here](#)).

The commission also mentioned that Booking might have the ability and incentive to foreclose rival flight OTAs by making their offerings less visible on its price-comparison platform Kayak.

Booking is the world's leading provider of online travel and related services, particularly for reserving accommodation.

The company it is acquiring, Etraveli, is a global provider of search, booking and fulfillment services for flights and related products, under brands such as Gotogate.

The deal was approved by the UK competition authority last September (see [here](#)).

The commission's case file number is M.10615.

Please email editors@mlex.com to contact the editorial staff regarding this story, or to submit the names of lawyers and advisers.

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