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OTA & Travel Distribution Update: Booking.com's victory over contract terms with hotels in Swedish court appeal; Expedia under investigation by Utah over hotel collusion claims; misleading online ads scrutinized by Dutch authority

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This week features another travel-shortened OTA & Travel Distribution Update. We will return with our regular format next week.

Booking.com wins Swedish court appeal on contract terms with hotels

MLex Insight on May 9, 2019 (subscription required)

Booking.com has overturned a Swedish ruling that ordered it to change its contract terms with hotels. The Stockholm Court of Appeal ruled today that the Dutch company was not in breach of competition rules, annulling a decision made last July by a lower competition court.

Today's decision can't be appealed further.

Expedia Under Investigation by Utah Over Hotel Collusion Claims

Bloomberg Quint – Stories on May 9, 2019

Expedia Group Inc. is under investigation by the Utah attorney general for allegedly conspiring with the biggest U.S. hotel chains to suppress competition in online travel booking. The office is investigating whether Expedia conspired with Marriott International Inc., Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc. and other hotel companies to manipulate.

Misleading online ads and EU dual-pricing ban scrutinized by Dutch Authority

Bloomberg Quint – Stories on May 9, 2019 (subscription required)

Companies conveying a false impression of scarcity to consumers could face more regulations in the Netherlands, the head of the Dutch Competition said.

New Hotel Booking Platform Centers on Sustainable Travel

Lodging Magazine on May 8, 2019

Not-for-profit hotel association Bee + Hive is launching a new booking platform centered around hotels that offer sustainable travel experiences. Guests that want to travel responsibly and adventure while on vacation can plan a trip based on activities, locations, and sustainable resources.

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