

**GBTA Advocacy Efforts continue in Brussels.**

On February 6th, 2024, Fulvio Origo, Regional Director of GBTA Italy attended a meeting in Brussels on behalf of GBTA Europe with Magda Kopczyńska, the European Commission’s top official overseeing EU transport policy. Together with a group of stakeholders in the travel sector, they discussed the Commission's plans to incentivize multimodal travel through a legislative proposal called the Multimodal Digital Mobility Services (MDMS) regulation. GBTA has strongly supported this proposal together with the “Friends of MDMS” coalition (made up of NGOs and travel stakeholders), as it would make it much easier for business travelers to choose sustainable travel options by making multimodal tickets more accessible through convenient online booking channels. The proposal, set to be presented last year, has however been postponed without a clear timeline for its introduction.

Ms. Kopczyńska explained that the Commission still intends to go ahead with the proposal but suggested that it would not be published before the European Parliament election in June. She added that the Commission is evaluating the proper balance between market needs and regulations, and the markets’ ability to find the right balance. She added that they need more data on whether passengers are willing to choose multimodal options. Fulvio referred to business travel’s market volumes, to corporate and business travelers' needs during the selection, the booking, the on-trip, and reporting process, and to [GBTA’s State of Climate Action in Business Travel report.](https://gbtafoundation.org/publications/2023-climate-action-report/) He conveyed that businesses are already encouraging or mandating the use of more sustainable travel options such as rail and argued that MDMS would facilitate further shift in this direction.

Finally, Ms. Kopczyńska suggested meeting with GBTA and stakeholders again in 6 to 8 months’ time. (when the election will have taken place, and a new European Commission and likely a new Transport Commissioner will have been elected)

Next steps

GBTA will coordinate with its partners in the “Friends of MDMS” coalition to ensure the Commission receives the appropriate data to back up the need for a strong legislative proposal to incentivize multimodal travel in Europe and will meet again with Ms. Kopczyńska later this year.