



Editor's note: For clarity, references to ".travel" domain name are also denoted by "dot travel."

**TRAVEL PARTNERSHIP CORPORATION NAMES 15-MEMBER BOARD;
BIRGER BACKMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT AND ACTING CHAIRMAN**

BERLIN - (March 12, 2005) - Internationally recognized travel administrator Birger Backman has been elected President and acting Chairman of the Board for The Travel Partnership Corporation (TTPC), a consortium of travel industry organizations representing all key segments of the industry, which is responsible for the development of eligibility policies for the travel industry's own dedicated domain on the Internet, .travel. At the same meeting, a 15-member Board of Directors was confirmed, including ten individuals who previously had served on TTPC's Interim Board.

Backman, who currently serves as Senior Advisor to the Chairman, United Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA), succeeds Jean-Claude Baumgarten, who has chaired the TTPC Interim Board since 2003. "Birger Backman's distinguished record in fostering global travel for the past 46 years, combined with his ability to interact with the highest executive levels in the travel business, make him ideally suited to serve in this role," said Mr. Baumgarten.

Backman most recently served as Secretary General and CEO of the United Federation of Travel Agents' Associations, a non-profit confederation representing nearly 70 national associations. Backman led initiatives in association with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and other world bodies to foster sustainable and responsible tourism. Backman stepped down from his leadership post this past January 2005, but continues to serve UFTAA as Senior Advisor to the Chairman.

The full Board of Directors confirmed by TTPC includes:

- Dr. Tanya Abrahamse, Executive Director, Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), South African Tourism
- Ronald N. Andruff, President & Chief Executive Officer, Tralliance Corporation (Ex-officio)

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- Birger Backman, Senior Advisor to the Chairman, United Federation of Travel Agents Associations' (UFTAA)
- Jean-Claude Baumgarten, President, World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)
- Michael Crye, President, International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL)
- Peter de Jong, President & Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)
- Kevin Dobby, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary, International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- Alain-Philippe Feutr , Special Advisor to the President, International Hotel & Restaurant Association (IH&RA)
- Michael D. Gehrisch, President & Chief Executive Officer, International Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus (IACVB)
- Thomas Jenkins, Executive Director, European Tour Operators Association (ETOA)
- Ashwini Kakkar, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Thomas Cook India Ltd.
- William A. Maloney, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)
- Victor S. Parra, President & Chief Executive Officer, United Motorcoach Association (UMA)
- Jeanine Pires, Director, EMBRATUR
- Dr. Sabine Schaffer, Senior Consultant, McKinsey & Company

About The Travel Partnership Corporation

The Travel Partnership Corporation is a Washington, D.C., non-profit corporation based in New York city, formed to promote the addition to the Internet of a new top-level sponsored domain (sTLD) to be known as .travel (dot travel). The TTPC recommends policies and practices concerning the eligibility to register domain names in the .travel (dot travel) Internet domain. More information: www.ttpc.org.

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