



#honkforhope – association for promoting the interests of motorcoach travelling business

Membership application to join the association

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The most important facts about #honkforhope in short words

COVID-19 has hit motorcoach travelling business hard – not only the motorcoach companies themselves, but also closely related professional groups like coach drivers, tour leaders, tourist guides etc. **While other business branches did get help quickly, our sector is still waiting for help** (as per 02nd June 2020) everywhere in the world. We need compensation for the damage caused by the lockdown, and we need a perspective concerning the question when and how we can restart working, and how we shall survive until then. The fundamental difference between our business branch and others (airlines, railways etc.) is that our sector is composed of small-unit companies who don't have a strong, international lobby. Many of our sector's companies are one-person companies or family-run businesses. In most places we have (if ever) only local, or best case national, federations. Many times, those associations are not "for us alone", but do also represent other types of businesses who sometimes do have interests which are opposed to ours.

Motorcoach business sector needs a strong, international voice speaking only „for us“, without the need to consider diverging interests of other business branches. At the same time, such a voice must also consider the fact that each and every actor of our branch is rightfully an individual, and embrace this diversity. Every adherent must keep the right to express his opinion freely, and nobody shall interfere with his autonomy as an entrepreneur. No association or federation should attempt to silence their members or keep them from acting on their own behalf. Speaking for a business branch is carrying common messages, but not claiming the right to give orders to anybody.

Since April 23rd, the initiative #honkforhope has evolved „from the base“ of our sector, and within shortest time, supporters of activists in many countries of Europe, as well as in USA and other non-european countries, have adhered to it. **Thousands of people co-operate with one main goal**: to make motorcoach travelling business survive. Their main fields of action are the following:

- 1) **Motorcoach rallies** in many cities, often together with tour guides and/or travel agencies.
- 2) **Public relation campaigning** to raise awareness for our problems in social media and traditional media.
- 3) **Political action** through petitions, lobbying, mass emailing to politicians, participation in governmental task-forces etc.
- 4) **Scientific work** through own research about sensible COVID-19 prevention in motorcoaches
- 5) **Legal work** through analysis of laws and edicts, as well as through designing and suggesting improvements of such, and through preparation and conduction of exemplary court procedures.

Promoting the interests of motorcoach travelling business is currently identical with making it survive. But also after the end of the crisis, there will be many topics which we can better internationally address and solve than each of us can alone. Just think of the unequal, complicated and unfair VAT-system in Europe, of the general lack of young drivers, or of the questionable city access taxes in many places.

The #honkforhope association will also be needed after COVID-19, and will keep speaking out and acting.

Rights and duties of the members?

The complete statutes of the association can be found online at the following address: <http://www.citytours-austria.com/honkforhope/Vereinsstatuten.pdf>. Please note that the legally binding version is this document in German language alone. Any future translations will only be orientative.

The most important rights and duties of #honkforhope members:

- 1) **Being a member doesn't bring any duties** except for the payment of an annual membership fee, as well as the duty not to speak about the association in a pejorative way while being a member, or to act in a pejorative manner towards the association in public.
- 2) **The membership fee will be set and proclaimed once per year.** For 2020, the rule is: each member decides for himself how much she or he is willing to contribute (minimum: 1,00 Euro). It is simply not the moment to ask for money from members of the motorcoach travelling business.
- 3) **Members have the right to voluntarily participate in actions of the association, or to benefit from its offers**, but are not compelled to do so. They may also use the logos and other symbols of the association (and of course this makes sense!), but aren't obliged to do so either.
- 4) **Within the association, everybody has the right to speak out.** Differing opinions are absolutely welcome and discussion is encouraged. You may also have and express different opinions towards others. The decision-making and discussing process is currently ascertained through our international system of Telegram messenger groups.

Which kinds of membership are there?

Depending on how intensively an association member wants to contribute, there are the following possibilities to participate: active members (primarily help by investing workforce), regular members (primarily help by paying contributions), supporting members (exclusively help by paying contributions).

Why did we become an association?

Many political actors are not willing to speak or negotiate with an initiative without legal status. Therefore, we have constituted ourselves as official association, and do invite members to join us officially.

- 1) Without legal form, many actors of politics, of our business branch and of other economical activity sectors don't take us seriously.
- 2) „Likes“ on the Internet, and counting persons who participate in our events, cannot provide us with a reliable number of companies for which we do actually speak. This, on the other hand, is a very important number towards the general public and politicians. **Membership declarations raise our weight**, and the more weight we have, the more we can do for the business sector.
- 3) Our work does also generate costs, which have been until now mostly covered by the initiators of the association alone. Since none of us is billionaire, we cannot ascertain an efficient work for the interests of the whole business branch in the required large scale all by ourselves forever. Membership fees are an important element to make sure that we can achieve even more for us all.
- 4) Finally, through the instrument of a “supporting membership”, **we can much better approach possible sponsors from other business branches**, to whom we can offer a reliable instrument for their own public relations work which they can plan.

We are looking forward to your adherence. Stronger together. #honkforhope



#honkforhope
Antrag auf Vereinsmitgliedschaft

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Herewith, I apply for membership in the #honkforhope association:

PERSONAL DATA

First name Last name	
Address street, house number postal code, city country	
Phone number	
E-mail address	
My profession	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner / director of a motorcoach company with own fleet <input type="checkbox"/> Freelance coach driver or employed coach driver <input type="checkbox"/> tourist guide, tour leader or tour manager <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Remarks	

DATA MANAGEMENT AND PRIVACY POLICY

I agree with the storage, transfer and proceduring of my personal data for purposes of the association. I can at anytime get information about these data from the association. My data will be erased should I leave the association.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERSHIP FEES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Membership fees will be used for: public relations (video production, online and offline information material, translations, websites etc.), lawyer and court costs (exemplary court procedures etc.) and other means of promoting the interests of motorcoach travelling business in Europe in compliance with the statutes of the association. The membership fee will be decided and proclaimed annually. For 2020, since #honkforhope is only starting its work and since tourism industry as a whole has serious financial troubles (this is why we are all getting active together!), the following rule does apply: each member decides for themselves about how much they want to contribute.

With the admission tot he association, I do acknowledge and accept the statutes of #honkforhope which are online available here: <http://www.citytours-austria.com/honkforhope/Vereinsstatuten.pdf>, as well as the above mentioned membership regulations. The statutes of #honkforhope are redacted based upon the principles of freedom of speech and autonomy of the citizen and entrepreneur. Membership in the association does not entitle #honkforhope to any right of commanding or interdicting anything towards its members.

#honkforhope kindly asks you for the following information about your company:

COMPANY DETAILS

Company name	
Address street, house number postal code, city country	
Phone number	
E-mail address	
Number of vehicles	
Number of employees	
Turnover of the last closed business year	
My membership fee for 2020 (fill in yourself! Minimum 1 Euro)	

RECOMMENDATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FEE (YOU CAN VOLUNTARILY GIVE MORE – MINIMUM 1 EURO)

Recommended membership fee (Europe!) for 2020

1. **Motorcoach companies and other large companies:** EUR 50,00 per year or (voluntarily) more
2. **All other categories** (freelance or employed driver, tourist guides, tour managers, tour leaders, other one-person-companies and very little): EUR 5,00 per year or (voluntarily) more

The membership fee is due on the date of admission to the association and shall be paid within 5 days by wire transfer to the following bank account:

Account holder: City Tours GmbH, Bank: Erste Bank, Gudrunstraße 122, A-1100 Wien (Austria), IBAN: AT04 2011 1295 1376 9500, BIC: GIBAATWW

Location / Date / Signature of the applicant

NOTES ABOUT THE ADMISSION PROCEDURE TO THE ASSOCIATION:

This application will be examined by the administrative board of the association. If the application is accepted, the applicant will receive a membership confirmation. The membership starts with the first payment of the membership fee. The statutes of the association (<http://www.citytours-austria.com/honkforhope/Vereinsstatuten.pdf>) are part of this membership application.