



Lawsuit against Ryanair for attacking the honor of the agencies

ACAVE lodges an appeal with the Provincial Court of Barcelona

- **The order of free dismissal issued by the Court of Instruction of Barcelona is not firm and not agreeing with the pronouncement made, ACAVe yesterday filed an appeal appeal to the Provincial Court of Barcelona**

Friday, April 14, 2023.- The Corporate Association of Specialized Travel Agencies (ACAVE), the main employer of the country in Spain and representing the interests of Spanish travel agencies in ECTAA, the European association of travel agencies and tour operators, presented yesterday an appeal before the Provincial Court of Barcelona against the order of free dismissal issued by the Court of Instruction of Barcelona, in the framework of the procedure initiated following the complaint filed by ACAVE against Ryanair for attacking the honor of the agencies of travel, considering that the facts denounced do not constitute a criminal offense.

The complaint was filed in 2021 by ACAVe before the statements and communications made by the airline, considering that they were intended to confuse consumers and slander and insult travel agencies. ACAVe considers that the arguments put forward by the investigating judge to agree to the free dismissal do not conform to the facts that motivated the presentation of the complaint in 2021, which ACAVe considers that they do have criminal relevance, which is why it has filed an appeal against said Order issued by the Court of Instruction, which is not firm and does not put an end to the judicial process.

To date, the Provincial Court has already upheld ACAVe's petitions on two occasions, declaring its active legitimacy to bring criminal proceedings and recognizing the right to honor of the legal persons affected by Ryanair's accusations. Therefore, with this appeal it will be the third occasion in which ACAVe will have to appeal, within the framework of the same procedure, before the Provincial Court, thus defending the honor of travel agencies.

Background

In 2021, ACAVe filed the complaint against Ryanair for considering that the airline falsely accused travel agencies of having carried out illegal acts, such as providing false information about the means of payment used or preventing refunds, as well as using techniques not authorized by the company.



Therefore, given the seriousness of the accusations made by Ryanair, both in statements sent directly to the customers of travel agencies and on those published on its website, in 2021 ACAVe proceeded to file the criminal action against Ryanair and its legal representatives in Spain, understanding that they were attacking against the right to honour of travel agencies.

About ACAVe

The Corporate Association of Specialized Travel Agencies (ACAVe) is the employers' association of statewide travel agencies based in Catalonia. It is the most representative association in Spain and includes 450 associates and around 1,000 points of sale throughout the country. Agencies of different types are part of the Association: holiday and corporate broadcasters, tour operators, coastal and city receptives, online agencies and cruise companies.

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