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BERLIN PUSHING VOUCHERS NOT REFUNDS: The German government is [calling on](#) the Commission to approve an EU-wide voucher system to cover package tours, flights and events canceled because of the coronavirus. The announcement was made following a special cabinet session by the federal chancellery rather than through the ministers that will actually be putting their case to the commissioners for justice and transport in Brussels over the coming days.

First up, Berlin will need to get the green light to amend air passenger rights legislation to allow vouchers rather than cash refunds. The government will make the plan — which involves issuing refunds through vouchers valid for use up to the end of 2021 — law for events anyway. If vouchers haven't been used by the expiry date then refunds would be required. By then, we hope, things will have got back to normal.

Claims agencies fighting: APRA, the lobby representing companies that file compensation claims against airlines, said it is still fighting to keep EU legislation as it is (they make a cut from what they win back for aggrieved passengers). "We understand that this is a time of crisis for airlines, but it is a crisis for everyone around the world — especially individuals and passengers. These short-term circumstances can not be an excuse for long-term changes in passenger rights," the group's spokesperson Christian Nielsen said.