

Dec 2, 2014 SF Chronicle Airbnb agrees to limit rentals in 2 European cities

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THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Airbnb will start enforcing limits to private home rentals in two popular European cities on the home-sharing platform, London and Amsterdam, the San Francisco company said Thursday.

The move comes amid complaints from some cities that the booming house sharing sector can lead to illegal hotels and

contribute to housing shortages.

In London, Airbnb said it will "introduce new and automated limits to help ensure entire home listings in London are not shared for more than 90 days," unless hosts prove they have permission to share their space for longer. The new measures will be in place by spring.

The Dutch capital and the online rental service said that they will work together to ensure that homeowners can only



John Macdougall / AFP / Getty Images

A woman browses the Airbnb site on a tablet in Berlin in April. Other European cities have been cracking down on the rental site.

rent out their properties for a maximum of 60 days per year. Amsterdam had introduced its limit earlier, but Airbnb said that from Jan. 1 its site will introduce automated tools to ensure homes aren't listed for more than 60 days a year unless the owners have a license.

"A home should remain a

home," Amsterdam alderman Laurens Ivens said in a statement.

"With this new approach we are showing that working together with platforms such as Airbnb gives the city a new and efficient weapon to tackle illegal hotels," he added.

Airbnb's general manager for

Northern Europe, James McClure, said, "We want to be good partners for everyone in the city and ensure home sharing grows responsibly and sustainably."

Airbnb says a typical host in Amsterdam earns \$4,041 by sharing their space for 28 nights a year. In London, a typical Airbnb host earns \$4,408 by sharing their space for 50 nights a year.

Last week, Barcelona authorities said they would fine Airbnb and another rental site, HomeAway, 600,000 euros each for offering lodging that doesn't have the necessary permits.

Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau told Catalunya Radio that while tourism was a positive asset for the Spanish city, it had grown too much and was denying locals access to housing.