Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

1996/0127(CNS) - 13/05/1996

The Council held a preliminary debate on the proposal for a Council decision (based on Article 235 of the Treaty), adopted by the Commission on 30 April 1996. The programme's ultimate objective is to stimulate quality and competitiveness of European tourism, in order to contribute to growth and employment. The Commission suggests four intermediate objectives : - improving knowledge in the field of tourism, - improving the legislative and financial environment for tourism, - raising quality in European tourism, - increasing the number of tourists from third countries. Whilst most delegations welcomed the presentation by the Commission, they also stressed that they were not yet in a position to comment on specific points. Both the current and the next Presidency committed themselves to promote a speedy examination of the proposal. In conclusion, therefore, the Council invited the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue discussion of the issue with a view to reaching a decision, if possible, at its next meeting in October 1996.