Tourism sector: the role of the Union. Green Paper

1995/2056(COS) - 15/11/1995 - Committee of the Regions: opinion

The Opinion stressed the need for coordinated action under current policies. It also considered that the aim in the tourism sector should be to help foster an economically, culturally and environmentally sustainable development. In addition to business interests and tourists, a third group also had to be catered for, namely the ordinary citizens who lived in the areas frequented by tourists. There should be cooperation between the authorities at the various levels in the Union : Commission, Member States and regional and local authorities. The Committee opposed any attempt to create a common European image, which would only serve to submerge the individual and cultural identities that Member States and regional authorities highlighted in their marketing. It called for coordination of the Community's general objectives for tourism and Structural Fund aid. The Commission's Green Paper could be construed as a step towards giving tourism, an extremely important industry, the attention it deserved in the EU's political decision-making processes, and called on the Commission to submit practical proposals as regards objectives and resources for the Union 's contribution to tourism. It urged the Commission to base its report, to be submitted to the Council in conjunction with the 1996 IGC, on the principles of partnership, complementarity and subsidiarity. It believed that the proposals contained in section C III (strengthening Community action via the existing Treaty…) constituted the soundest basis for the Commission's future work.