Basic information

1995/2056(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Tourism sector: the role of the Union. Green Paper **Subject** 4.50 Tourism	

Key players

European Parliament	**Committee responsible**	**Rapporteur**	**Appointed**
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	SARLIS Pavlos (PPE)	23/05/1995
	Committee for opinion	**Rapporteur for opinion**	**Appointed**
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	HARRISON Lyndon H.A. (PSE)	24/05/1995
	REGI Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	DÍEZ DE RIVERA ICAZA Carmen (PSE)	23/05/1995
Council of the European Union			

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
04/04/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0097	Summary
15/05/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/01/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
23/01/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0016/1996	
12/02/1996	Debate in Parliament		
13/02/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		
04/03/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2056(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/06564

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B4-0556/1995	16/06/1995	
Motion for a resolution		B4-0560/1995	26/06/1995	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0016/1996 OJ C 047 19.02.1996, p. 0005	23/01/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0046/1996 OJ C 065 04.03.1996, p. 0020-0034	13/02/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0097	04/04/1995	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0976/1995 OJ C 301 13.11.1995, p. 0068	14/09/1995	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0376/1995 OJ C 126 29.04.1996, p. 0024	15/11/1995	Summary

Tourism sector: the role of the Union. Green Paper

1995/2056(COS) - 13/02/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Pavlos SARLIS (PPE, GR) on the Commission's Green Paper, the European Parliament requested the Commission to support the addition of a specific chapter introducing a sustainable common tourism policy to cover the environment, culture, the economy and employment in the regions concerned and provided with a separate legal basis in the EC Treaty when it was revised at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference. The EP considered that a sustainable common tourism policy should seek to accomplish the following objectives: - ensuring the quality and competitiveness of the Community tourist industry; - creating favourable conditions for the development of Community tourist enterprises, particularly SMUs (e.g. direct market access, access to the 'information society'); - taking initiatives to improve and harmonize working conditions, train workers and boost employment; - promoting cooperation between all those involved in tourist activities to improve exchanges of information and best practice and to encourage protection of the European natural and cultural heritage; - coordinating measures adopted at national level in the field of

Community and international tourism; - introducing the possibility of concluding agreements between the Community and third countries on matters relating to international tourism; - financing research, restoration and conservation work and tourist infrastructure projects on the basis of quality criteria. In addition, the EP proposed the protection of specific rights of tourists and, possibly, a European code of conduct for tourists. It called for the introduction of a special rate of VAT for tourism, measures promoting the European Union as a destination for tourists from third countries, initiatives to harmonize study programmes, working conditions and the training of workers, initiatives to facilitate the access to tourism of young people, the elderly and those with limited financial means, and the development of social and associative tourism. The EP called on the Commission to take the appropriate steps to create a European tourism agency.

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.

Tourism sector: the role of the Union. Green Paper

1995/2056(COS) - 14/09/1995 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Opinion noted that the ESC had been working for the introduction of a European tourism policy since 1989. The tourism sector notably stimulated development yet it was severely neglected by the public authorities. Thus the ESC advocated the fourth option – despite the opposition of some advisers who voted against the Opinion – and highlighted the added value that could be brought by the European Union if the next Intergovernmental Conference decided to include tourism among the fully-fledged Community policies.

Tourism sector: the role of the Union. Green Paper

1995/2056(COS) - 04/04/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: to define the role of the Union in the tourism sector and inaugurate a debate with all parties concerned on the future development of this policy at Community level. CONTENT: the Commission's Green Paper opens a debate on three specific aspects of tourism policy at Community level: . description of current Community projects and instruments in the tourism sector: in particular, a description of the first Community action plan for tourism (1993-1995) and of other indirect Community measures which affect tourism (projects to do with the environment, culture, training, enterprise policy, trans-European networks and the Structural Funds); . examination of the added value which a policy implemented at Community level would have: according to the Green Paper, tourism helps to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the Community and helps enormously in promoting a European identity, especially through the exchanges which it encourages. Developing a European tourism policy would promote sustainable and balanced economic development in the Community and would help manage structural and technological changes and develop the SME tourist sector. Taking account of these facts and of the guidelines issued by the European Parliament, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions in this context, the Commission has identified three priority lines of approach for action at Community level: *support for improvements in the quality of tourism by taking account of the demand for tourism; *diversification of tourist activities and products with a view to improving competitiveness in this sector; *integration of the concept of sustainable, balanced development (taking account of the cultural and environmental dimensions of tourism); . development prospects: the Green Paper sets out four major options on which the parties involved need to decide by 30 June 1995: *to reduce or eliminate specific Community projects; *to maintain the current framework and level of intervention (for example through action plans such as the 1993 tourism plan which, while complying fully with the principle of subsidiarity, allows common projects and strategies to be developed); *to strengthen Community action on the basis of the TEU: the Community could give greater support to research into growth in this sector and develop the cultural and natural heritage of Europe. The idea would be to develop projects which take greater account of the "tourism" variable within each Community policy. From this point of view, Community action would respond to sectoral or specific needs but would be less visible as such; *to create a Community tourism policy: the Community would act as an interface between the various interested parties in the sector in the Union and would coordinate action by Member States in this sector (with the Commission acting as the kingpin). It would encourage the harmonization of national policies and would implement action to complement action taken by the Member States. By developing separately, this Community policy could act as a demonstration model, taking account both of the interests of tourism and the integration of tourism into a pattern of sustainable development.