Basic information

1997/2156(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) Tourism sector: Community measures (dec. 92/421/EEC). Report 1995-1996 **Subject** 4.50 Tourism	Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	NOVO BELENGUER Alfonso (ARE)	29/10/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	WIJSENBEEK Florus A. (ELDR)	27/11/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Tourism	2049	1997-11-26

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/07/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0332	Summary
06/11/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/11/1997	Debate in Council		
23/06/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
23/06/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0247/1998	

06/10/1998	Debate in Parliament		
07/10/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/10/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2156(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/4/09080

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Motion for a resolution		B4-0820/1997	06/10/1997	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0247/1998 OJ C 226 20.07.1998, p. 0004	23/06/1998	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0561/1998 OJ C 328 26.10.1998, p. 0074-0106	07/10/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0332	02/07/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1200/1997	30/10/1997	Summary

Tourism sector: Community measures (dec. 92/421/EEC). Report 1995-1996

1997/2156(COS) - 02/07/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the report seeks to assess the measures implemented in the framework of Community measures affecting tourism (Decision 92/421/EEC) undertaken in 1995/96 and describes the actions undertaken by the Community in this field, either: - directly through the action plan, or - indirectly through other Community policies (regional, environment, transport, consumer, education, training, culture, etc.). SUBSTANCE: The report

shows that the European Union is the main originating area as well as the main destination of international tourist flows and that tourism activities account for 6% of total employment in Europe. The measures taken in 1995/96 affected various types of public and economic activity (European citizens, public authorities, enterprises and relations with third countries) and at Community level are seen at two levels: 1) in the implementation of the action plan itself: in 1995/96 particular attention was paid to: - improving knowledge about European tourism, - promoting transnational cooperation to stimulate the quality of tourist services, - strengthening cooperation and consultation with public and private bodies and other organizations concerned, - improving internal coordination within the Commission; 2) in the context of other Community programmes and actions, activities have sought mainly to: - facilitate citizens' mobility and access to tourism, as well as improve protection of tourists as consumers, - improve the economic and social environment for the development of tourist activities, - bring about a sound relationship between tourist activities and natural, man-made and cultural resources, in the interest of balanced and sustainable tourism development. The report also refers to the many problems which have arisen in the management of tourism actions (see COS0420 - Court of Auditors report on tourist policy) and which have tarnished the image of Community action in this sector. The Commission indicates that it is carrying out a full review of the shortcomings and that it will continue to raise recovery orders and pursue irregularities. It also points out that in the second half of the implementation period worthwhile projects have been launched. On an institutional level, the organization of a European Tourism Forum in December 1995 gave an opportunity to assess the needs and scope of tourism actions. In the last part of its report the Commission regrets the lack of a specific legal basis on tourism in the Treaty, confirmed by the outcome of the IGC. It indicates that it will improve the coordination and consultation of the Member States and organizations concerned in order to increase the potential of this policy in the Union. Lastly, it calls for the speedy adoption of its proposal on the multiannual programme to assist European tourism (Philoxenia, 1997-2000) which is currently under discussion in the Council (CNS96127).

Tourism sector: Community measures (dec. 92/421/EEC). Report 1995-1996

1997/2156(COS) - 07/10/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Alfonso NOVO BELENGUER (ARE, E) on Community measures relating to tourism, Parliament called on the Commission to undertake a detailed analysis of the proposals submitted for the tourist sector by each of the fifteen Member States under their national employment plans. It considered that the means for overcoming the structural obstacles to a Community tourism policy needed to be strengthened, and that attention should be focused on the measures needed to develop a clear, positive and dynamic framework for a future tourism policy that would gain the support of all the institutions. It recommended the establishment of a directorate for tourism within the Commission's DG XXIII, with units responsible for: - ensuring effective coordination with other DGs, particularly those responsible for policy to assist small and medium-sized enterprises; - developing permanent consultation arrangements with the national tourist boards and government services; - duly evaluating all direct actions funded by the Commission affecting tourism; - increasing the information available to tourists on all aspects of their rights and responsibilities as consumers. It took the view that the budgetary authority should provide for an appropriate and realistic budget for direct Community actions in the tourism sector in the 1999 budget. It considered that the proposal for a multiannual programme for tourism ('Philoxenia'), presented by the Commission in 1996, represented, in general, an appropriate framework for the future development of a Community tourism policy. Accordingly, it called on the Presidency of the Council to take an early decision on the adoption of the programme. It called for the reform of the Structural Funds proposed in Agenda 2000 to take due account of the need to ensure coordinated support for the tourist industry. The impact of alternative forms of tourism (tourism in rural areas, sustainable tourism) as an instrument of regional development, particularly in rural areas, should be highlighted. Parliament considered that, while fully respecting the subsidiarity principle, efforts to promote the EU as a tourist destination needed to be pursued in third-country markets. It was particularly important to advertise the advantages of travelling within the euro zone to tourism markets both inside and outside the Union. It welcomed the Commission project concerning biodiversity, and called for special campaigns to promote sustainable tourism in all existing and future EU programmes for tourism. Special priority should be assigned to on-line services in tourism (particularly to promote peripheral and island regions). It called on the Commission to: - organise concerted action by the Member States to promote exchanges of experts on the restoration of the artistic heritage (study grants and encouragement of the creation of networks on the lines of that of 'Europa Traditionae Consortium'); - recognise the importance of tourism training, so as to enhance awareness of sustainable tourism; - recognise the importance of tourism as an industry and particularly the role of SMEs in this sector; - promote good practices in tourism with the applicant countries; - seek to link tourism and employment. In this context, it welcomed the setting-up of a high-level group on tourism and employment, and particularly welcomed the initiatives launched to combat sex tourism involving children.

Tourism sector: Community measures (dec. 92/421/EEC). Report 1995-1996

1997/2156(COS) - 30/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee welcomes the report presented by the Commission, which makes it clear that the European Union does concern itself with the tourism sector and those working in it. However, it urges the Commission to try to measure in greater detail the effects of the different measures in terms of job creation in the sector or of improving the quality of the tourism product, as this would facilitate the choices which would guide the continuation, or indeed intensification, of tourism policy. Following on from earlier opinions, the Committee then returns to certain questions influencing the future development of the tourism industry: the environment, consumer policy and above all the problems of employment. The Committee also takes the opportunity to express regret that the Treaty of Amsterdam has still not provided a specific legal basis for tourism policy, and to call upon the Council to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the Philoxenia programme to assist European tourism, which was proposed by the Commission nearly a year and a half ago.