Basic information

1999/2115(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Enhancing tourism's potential for employment: recommendations of the High Level Group **Subject** 4.15 Employment policy, action to combat unemployment 4.50 Tourism	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	VICECONTE Guido (PPE-DE)	31/08/1999

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		
FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	21/09/1999

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2193	1999-06-21

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/04/1999	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1999)0205	Summary
21/06/1999	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/09/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
26/01/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
26/01/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0030/2000	
17/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
18/02/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0076/2000	Summary

18/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
29/11/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1999/2115(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	RETT/4/10957

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0030/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	26/01/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0076/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0286-0292	18/02/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1999)0205	28/04/1999	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0093/2000 OJ C 075 15.03.2000, p. 0037	26/01/2000	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0291/1999 OJ C 317 06.11.2000, p. 0040	15/06/2000	

Enhancing tourism's potential for employment: recommendations of the High Level Group

1999/2115(COS) - 28/04/1999 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to propose a strategy aiming to increase tourism's potential for employment. CONTENT : Activities linked to tourism currently represent a significant share of employment in Europe (9 million jobs). With a limited rate of increase of 1 to 1.5%, employment should rise from 2.2 to 3.3 million additional jobs in Europe by 2010 (the tourism industry itself represents only 5.5% to 6% of employment and 30% of external trade in services). In 1998, a High Level Group was set up and it confirmed, in a report published at the end of 1998, this rising trend of employment in the European

tourism industry and stressing the necessity for the Union to coordinate better the measures taken at different levels in order to fully exploit the potential of tourism in terms of creating new jobs and jobs of which are of a better quality. For the High Level Group, this meant an integrated and multi-sectorial approach to planning, development and implementation of tourism activities, by ensuring the protection and the optimal use of the natural and social environment in the host regions. This communication responds precisely to the links between tourism and employment and examines the terms and conditions permitting to optimize the contribution of tourism to employment and to favour the implementation of positive measures aiming to ensure the exploitation of this potential. From this analysis, it emerged that the coordinated approach, advocated by the High Level Group, should be reinforced at Community level in line with the policies of the Union and the Member States. The strategy should address three main problem areas, namely : 1) the need for better knowledge, know-how and expertise in tourism; 2) improving information on, and access to targeted Copmmunity initiatives and programmes of interest to tourism; and 3) greater exchange of information on development initiatives and on legislative measures affecting tourism, taken by public authorities in the Member States. This strategy implies the implementation of a multi-annual framework programme on tourism comprising: - the pooling and dissemination of qualitative and quantitative information, including best practice, - the development of user-friendly information tools on EU programmes and initiatives of interest to tourism; and - the development of a structured platform of consultation and cooperation with public authorities, the tourism industry and other interested parties. This in turn implies policy guidelines proposed by the Commission and the Member States and the creation of the European Consultative Committee on Tourism comprising top managers from the European tourism sector. The communication also identifies ways of strengthening the contribution of tourism to the European employment strategy. In fact, this sector is promising both in terms of the net creation of jobs and its structure (dynamic because of the youthfulness of the workers, high rate of female workers, well-developed continuing training). The Commission, furthermore, stresses the importance ofstrengthening the synergies in order to better exploit the possibilities offered by the Union thanks to the Structural Funds and certain measures allowing the improvement of competitiveness of European tourism thanks to the EurONet network which operates like an information office for all the tourism sector or the exchange of information on best practice existing in the field. Other initiatives are also foreseen in particular on the European tax front or with regard to training (recognition of diplomas, in particular) or the improvement of the tourism infrastructure with a concern for sustainable development. Lastly, it is planned to introduce a strategy to coordinate measures at European level and in the Member States which will permit the improved determination of political priorities and ensure greater cost-effectiveness in the Community's contribution to improving the competitiveness of European tourism. The identification and the elimination of barriers to the development of the tourism sector would also be facilitated. In order to achieve this, the Commission intends to concentrate on information, cooperation and partnership. Practical proposals will be discussed at the European Tourism Summit which is planned for the year 2000.

Enhancing tourism's potential for employment: recommendations of the High Level Group

1999/2115(COS) - 18/02/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

At its first reading, the European Parliament adopted the report by Mr. Guido Viceconte (EPP/ED, I). It endorsed the overall strategy indicated by the high level group on tourism. It was unhappy about the lack of a specific legal base for tourism in the Treaties and urged this situation be remedied. In addition, it called on the Commission to: - Ensure that Community policies intended to create tourism-related jobs are co-ordinated with national employment policies; - provide firm support for rural tourism since this is an underdeveloped means of creating jobs and raising incomes, particularly in the least-favoured regions; - promote innovative projects in sensitive areas such as coasts and mountains; - to draw up a progress report on the implementation of Directive 95/57/EC on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism and a proposal to improve the latter with regard to the indicators relating to employment, sustainable tourism and social demand; - include employment for women in tourism within the fourth multiannual programme for small and medium-sized undertakings, and include tourism in the fifth action programme for equal opportunities, 2001-2005; - ensure that the rules on competition are properly applied to sectors which are closely linked to tourism, with a particular view to combating distortions and monopolies which imperil many small and medium-sized businesses operating in the sector.