Basic information

2002/2038(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Tourism sector: working together for a sustainable development and employment **Subject** 4.50 Tourism 5.05 Economic growth	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	TORRES MARQUES Helena (PSE)	19/12/2001

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs and Internal Market	BRADBOURN Philip (PPE-DE)	19/02/2002
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	DE CLERCQ Willy C.E.H. (ELDR)	23/01/2002
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi (PPE-DE)	12/12/2001
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	BAKOPOULOS Emmanouil (GUE/NGL)	23/01/2002

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2426	2002-05-21
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2389	2001-11-26

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/11/2001	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2001)0665	Summary
26/11/2001	Debate in Council		
27/02/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/04/2002	Vote in committee		
18/04/2002	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0152/2002	
13/05/2002	Debate in Parliament		
14/05/2002	Decision by Parliament	T5-0222/2002	Summary
14/05/2002	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/05/2002	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
31/07/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2002/2038(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/5/15942

Tourism sector: working together for a sustainable development and employment

2002/2038(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Document attached to the procedure

The Commission report of 17 October 2001 provided to the Gent Summit an Overview of EU action in response to the events of 11 September and assessment of their likely economic impact. The report explained what the EU had done in this respect, up to that date, and listed the implications for priorities both in terms of action and of resources at EU level. It also examined the impact of the events of 11 September on the EU economy and on four specific sectors, one of them being tourism. Concerning the impact on EU tourism, the Commission has assessed the situation as it developed. It has invited European and international associations in the field of tourism to present their views with regard to short and medium term impact and policy consequences. In addition to the replies from these associations, several national associations and tourism administrations of Member States also reacted. In its communication of 10 October 2001 on the Repercussions of the terrorist attacks in the United States on the air transport industry, the Commission has set out its political response. Some of the measures proposed also respond to requests made by the European tourism industry. These refer to increased safety levels for the travelling public, including coordination throughout the EU and regular inspection of implementation of safety precautions. They refer also to governments underwriting the additional insurance costs, and aid to the financial recovery of airlines. Despite the immediate crisis situation with which specific market segments, sectors and destinations are faced, measures which harm the long-term prospects for growth and competitiveness of the European tourism industry must be avoided. The challenge therefore will be to develop a strategy for the European tourism sector that meets the medium and long-term political and economic challenges ahead. This, together with the requests from the European tourism industry stakeholders for integration and co-operation should be met by the new co-operative approach for the tourism industry set out in the Commission communication of 13 November 2001 entitled "Working together for the future of European tourism" The measures favoured under this approach aim at improving the integration of the concerns of all tourism stakeholders in Community policies and initiatives affecting tourism, and at promoting a better interface with the tourism industry and other parties involved. It is suggested that this be put into effect through the open method of coordination. Since uncertainty remains, the Commission will continue to monitor the impact of current events on tourism and keep it under review. This will be done in co-operation with the Member States, the tourism industry, and the other stakeholders.

Tourism sector: working together for a sustainable development and employment

2002/2038(COS) - 13/11/2001 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE : to create an operational framework for monitoring tourism policies and activities in the EU. CONTENT : the communication is the final milestone of the "tourism and employment" process that was launched four years ago. It is the result of intensive work done since January 2000 with Member States, the industry and major civil society stakeholders, on five key issues: information, training, quality, sustainable development and new technologies. The Commission underlines the importance of exchanging more information and experience among interested parties, to prepare the implementation of the actions recommended in the communication. Some of the key activities advocated in the communication are: - promoting dialogue with the tourism industry and other interested parties by holding an Annual Tourism Forum and extending the remit of the Advisory Committee on Tourism; - fostering networking services and support functions, for instance through competence centres (observations, study and research centres) at national, regional and local levels; - ensuring good use of the EU's financial and non-financial instruments to the benefit of the tourism industry, in co-operation with national ad regional authorities and with operators; - promoting sustainable development by furthering elaborating on an implementing the "Agenda 21" guidelines; - defining and disseminating assessment methods and tools (quality indicators and benchmarking) necessary for monitoring the quality of tourist destinations and services. The Commission and the Member States have co-operated closely on all subjects covered by this communication. Co-operation has been through working groups created under the aegis of the Commission, with the guidance of the Tourism Advisory Committee, to follow-up the conclusions of the Council 21 June 1999. The trade associations and civil society organisations concerned with tourism have also been directly involved. The purpose of this communication is to consolidate this new process by proposing : - an operational framework based on the method of open co-ordination between all the stakeholders concerned developed at the Lisbon European Council. It is in tune with the guidelines of the recent White Paper on European Governance, for which tourism is a suitable area of application: its implementation will require commitment at the relevant high level; - a limited number of measures to be introduced by the various stakeholders in the tourism sector, with the aim of increasing the basic knowledge of this economic activity, increasing the competitiveness of its businesses and improving the sustainable development of tourism in the EU and its contribution to job creation.

Tourism sector: working together for a sustainable development and employment

2002/2038(COS) - 14/05/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Helena TORRES MARQUES (PES, Portugal) on the future of European tourism. Parliament pointed out that the sector accounts for 5% of GDP and employment (rising to 12% of GDP if the activity it generates in other sectors such as transport is included) and is undergoing a continuing rate of growth. Europe is still the world's most important tourist destination. Given that tourism issues cut across boundaries, Parliament called for the directorates- general concerned (transport, regional policy, consumer protection, education and culture etc.) to eliminate the existing fragmented planning and produce more closely interlocking Community programmes to guarantee sustainable development of the sector and vertical cohesion encompassing the regions, the national governments and EU institutions. A business impact assessment of all measures with a major effect on tourism needs to be carried out. Parliament is very much in favour of the European Tourism Forum. It also wants to see a strengthening of the Advisory Committee on Tourism at Community level with the participation of European consumer bodies and cultural and environmental heritage protection associations. There is support for a Community-wide framework programme for tourism and for a specific budget heading to be employed so as to enable the various projected measures, especially those related to training or intended to promote innovation, to be pursued coherently. Parliament goes on to stress the importance of sustainable tourism, which must be of high quality, competitive and open to all, but never overstrain the reception capacities of natural and cultural sites. It is in favour of building on Agenda 21 to promote targeted initiatives to foster sustainable tourist activity, including labelling for tourist services and travel organisers; fiscal measures to redress the adverse effects of tourism; integrated management practices in sensitive areas such as coastal and mountain areas and the inclusion of tourism-related aspects in other economic activities. Tourism is also a resource for employment. Parliament proposes that Community funds should be used to develop new forms of tourism to make the industry less seasonal, such as rural tourism, health and especially spa tourism, or social tourism aimed not only at workers but also the young and the retired. Parliament makes specific recommendations on personnel training. The Commission is asked to propose a promotion programme to be implemented outside the EU's frontiers. The Community's administrative resources must be upto the tasks that need doing. Finally, Parliament called on the Convention on the future of Europe to evaluate the need for the tourism sector to have a legal basis enabling it to give force to Community measures, by including in the Treaty a genuine common policy on tourism which, by encouraging the essential differences between the countries and regions, would make it possible to take coordinated measures for the development of European tourism.