

Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	1996/0127(CNS)	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia		
Subject 4.50 Tourism		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	TRAN Transport and Tourism		04/06/1996
		PPE BENNASAR TOUS Francisca	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	BUDG Budgets		
	REGI Regional Policy		04/06/1996
		UPE BAGGIONI Jean	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2149	07/12/1998
	Tourism	2049	26/11/1997
	Tourism	1923	13/05/1996

Key events			
18/04/1996	Additional information		Summary
13/05/1996	Debate in Council	1923	Summary
03/06/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0168	Summary
03/07/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/10/1996	Vote in committee		
01/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0298/1996	
24/10/1996	Debate in Parliament		
25/10/1996	Decision by Parliament	T4-0561/1996	Summary
04/12/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0635	Summary

26/11/1997	Debate in Council	2049	
07/12/1998	Debate in Council	2149	
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/06/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/01/2004	Proposal withdrawn by Commission		Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0127(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 308
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure lapsed or withdrawn
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/07981

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0168 , OJ C 222 31.07.1996, p. 0009	03/06/1996	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1094/1996 OJ C 030 30.01.1997, p. 0103	26/09/1996	ESC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0298/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0005	01/10/1996	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T4-0561/1996 OJ C 347 18.11.1996, p. 0420-0430	25/10/1996	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0302/1996 OJ C 042 10.02.1997, p. 0023	13/11/1996	CofR	
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0635 , OJ C 013 14.01.1997, p. 0011	04/12/1996	EC	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

PREVIOUS COMMUNITY LEGISLATION Council decision 92/421/EEC of 13 July 1992 (OJ L 231, 13.8.92) set up a Community action plan to assist tourism for a three year period (1993-1995). In this connection in 1994 and 1996 the Commission presented two communications on Community measures affecting tourism (COM(94)0074 and COM(96)0029), which give a comprehensive review of all Community measures concerning tourists, businesses, tourist occupations, the Member States and the regions. PREVIOUS POSITION OF EP Parliament has always advocated a Community tourism policy: resolutions include that of 11 June 1991 on a Community tourism policy (OJ C 183, 15.7.91, p. 74); 18 January 1994 on tourism in the approach to the year 2000 (OJ C 44, 14.2.94); 15 December 1994 on the report from the Commission on Community measures affecting tourism (OJ C 18, 23.1.95, p. 159); and 13 February 1996 on the Commission's Green Paper on the role of the Union in the field of tourism, which calls on the Commission to support the creation of a title in the Treaty establishing a common tourism policy, respecting the principle of subsidiarity and with a legal basis that will cover important areas of Community actions. SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATES At present, most public action on tourism is carried out by the Member States, the regions and the local authorities.

Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

The Council held a preliminary debate on the proposal for a Council decision (based on Article 235 of the Treaty), adopted by the Commission on 30 April 1996. The programme's ultimate objective is to stimulate quality and competitiveness of European tourism, in order to contribute to growth and employment. The Commission suggests four intermediate objectives : - improving knowledge in the field of tourism, - improving the legislative and financial environment for tourism, - raising quality in European tourism, - increasing the number of tourists from third countries. Whilst most delegations welcomed the presentation by the Commission, they also stressed that they were not yet in a position to comment on specific points. Both the current and the next Presidency committed themselves to promote a speedy examination of the proposal. In conclusion, therefore, the Council invited the Committee of Permanent Representatives to continue discussion of the issue with a view to reaching a decision, if possible, at its next meeting in October 1996. ?

Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

OBJECTIVE: adoption of a First Multiannual Programme to assist European Tourism (1997-2000) designed to stimulate the quality and competitiveness of European tourism on the basis of a truly strategic approach geared towards growth and employment. SUBSTANCE: this programme, called Philoxenia (hospitality, in Greek), for which the Commission foresees an amount of ECU 25 m over a period of four years (1 January 1997 - 31 December 2000) in its financial statement, has the following four objectives: . to improve knowledge in the field of tourism by developing tourism-related information, by pooling tourism information from other sources, and by facilitating the assessment of Community measures affecting tourism; . to improve the legislative and financial environment for tourism by reinforcing cooperation with Member States , the industry and other stakeholders; . to raise the quality of European tourism by promoting sustainable tourism and removing the obstacles to tourism development; . to increase the number of tourists from third countries by promoting Europe as a tourist destination. An annex spells out all the actions eligible for financing under this programme. Through these focussed objectives and specific measures, the programme will provide both official authorities and the industry with a coherent framework enabling them to identify more accurately the weaknesses and problems of European tourism. The actions will be implemented through the reinforcement of cooperation with the national authorities and, if necessary, with the regional and local authorities, the industry and other interested parties. The programme is open to the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as Cyprus and Malta. The Commission will regularly evaluate the results of the programme and present each year to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions a report on all Community measures affecting tourism carried out under other Community policies. It will be assisted by the Advisory Committee in the field of tourism set up by Decision 86/864/EEC (the Committee set up by Decision 92/421/EEC is abolished). ?

Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

After stressing the importance of tourism in the European economy, the Opinion criticizes the excessive and deleterious development of "mass tourism" which is incompatible with the main objective of PHILOXENIA, namely "sustainable development". The Opinion nonetheless endorses this programme, which constitutes the beginning of an integrated approach and which clearly defines objectives and priorities, even if the resources allocated to the programme are insufficient. It recommends that the programme be extended not only to Cyprus and Malta, but to all the countries which took part in the Euromed Conference in Barcelona (1995). It stresses the need for an external policy on tourism with political, economic, social and ethical aspects, comprising in particular measures to combat sexual tourism. Finally, it emphasises that the PHILOXENIA programme is only part of the measures which influence tourism and that many other European and national policies must be adapted to take account of the impact they have on tourism as a sector of economic activity. ?

Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

Parliament adopted, with amendments, the report by Mrs Francisca BENNASAR TOUS (PPE, E) concerning a First Multiannual Programme to assist European tourism, 'Philoxenia' (1997-2000). The amendments proposed by the EP do not change the sense of the Commission's original proposal but add to it, drawing attention to the advisability of: - improving its consistency with other Community programmes and policies; - promoting tourism that is sustainable in socio-economic and environmental terms; - adopting measures to offset the handicap of the under-developed, extremely remote and island regions; - including the fundamental principles of a tourism policy at European level among the objectives of Structural Funds; - allowing innovative projects in the field of training, with a view to job creation; - implementing concrete actions to fight sex tourism; - including tourist SMEs in the third multiannual programme for SMEs; - recognizing that intra-Community tourism and the importance of a common identity for Europe should be the prime objective of promotion; - opening the programme to Mediterranean countries. ?

Tourism: first multiannual programme 1997-2000, Philoxenia

In its modified proposal the Commission incorporated only a very limited number of amendments approved by Parliament, i.e. only those seeking to introduce new references with regard to: - the recognition of tourism as an industry and its contribution to the achievement of the Community's objectives, - the reinforcement of economic and social cohesion, especially in the Union's least-favoured regions and in outermost and island regions, - the Council resolution of 13 May 1996 on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the tourist sector (though without extending the programme to the Mediterranean countries), - in the Annex to the proposal, the Council Directive of 23 November 1995 on the collection of statistical information (Directive 95/57/EC). The Commission also incorporated the EP amendment to include the dissemination of tourism information among the principal objectives of Philoxenia. On the other hand, the Commission did not accept Parliament's amendment to link the proposal with the multiannual programme to assist the SMUs, nor the amendments on training and employment or those relating to fighting against child sex tourism. Finally, the amendments concerning commitment were also ruled out by the Commission. ?

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As announced in Official Journal C 5 of 9 January 2004, the Commission decided to withdraw this proposal, which had become obsolete.