

Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1999/2115(COS)	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		31/08/1999
		PPE-DE VICECONTE Guido	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		
	FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities		21/09/1999
		PPE-DE KRATSA-TSAGAROPOULOU Rodi	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2193	21/06/1999

Key events			
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 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/4/10957

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1999)0205	28/04/1999	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0030/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0005	26/01/2000	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES0093/2000 OJ C 075 15.03.2000, p. 0037	26/01/2000	ESC	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0076/2000 OJ C 339 29.11.2000, p. 0286-0292	18/02/2000	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0291/1999 OJ C 317 06.11.2000, p. 0040	15/06/2000	CofR	

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

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 Community 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 of strengthening 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

The impasse in the Council over a multiannual framework programme for tourism came under fire in the committee, which adopted the report

by Guido Viceconte (EPP/ED, I) on the conclusions and recommendations of the High-Level Group on Tourism and Employment. The committee regretted that the European Union's delay and indecision had prevented the introduction of a fully fledged Community policy on tourism as a sector capable of generating new jobs. Such a policy not only needed more effective coordination, but also better targeting of Community assistance to the tourist industry. A multiannual tourism programme had been blocked in Council for almost two years. Moreover, the lack of a legal base was preventing funding for the budget, which should serve to cover the expenditure required for the coordination of existing Community actions established in connection with other policies. Although the committee did not blame the Commission for the deadlock reached in Council, it thought that the Commission should at least ensure that there was more effective internal coordination. The report welcomed the prospect of a Commission department responsible for tourism concentrating on information, cooperation and partnership. It was also crucial that a list of criteria be drawn up applying to aid and to the various Community measures in the field of tourism which should reflect the specific (i.e. supra-national) nature of Community aid for tourism in strict compliance with the principle of subsidiarity. Priority should be given to job creation. There was also an urgent need for the adoption of a statistical system on tourism to provide Community, national and regional institutions, entrepreneurs and others with reliable information on tourism, related economic and social developments, employment trends and the potential for the creation of new jobs. Finally, special attention should be given to training, to taking positive fiscal measures in favour of small and medium-sized firms by reducing the burden of charges on labour and to developing the sector in the countries of the Mediterranean Basin.?

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

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.?