


Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1994/2063(COS)	Procedure completed
Tourism sector: Community measures affecting tourism in 1992 and 1993. Report		
Subject 4.50 Tourism		

Key players	
European Parliament	
Council of the European Union	

Key events			
05/04/1994	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1994)0074	Summary
18/04/1994	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/11/1994	Vote in committee		Summary
20/11/1994	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0080/1994	
13/12/1994	Debate in Parliament		
15/12/1994	Decision by Parliament	T4-0197/1994	
15/12/1994	End of procedure in Parliament		
23/01/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1994/2063(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	TRAN/3/05490

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1994)0074	06/04/1994	EC	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0080/1994	21/11/1994	EP	

		OJ C 018 23.01.1995, p. 0004			
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0197/1994 OJ C 018 23.01.1995, p. 0137-0159	15/12/1994	EP	

Tourism sector: Community measures affecting tourism in 1992 and 1993. Report

This communication reported on the Community actions on tourism implemented in 1992 and 1993. In 1992, the actions, financed by an overall budget of ECU 5 642 000, of which 70% was allocated as subsidies, focused on three objectives: - improving knowledge of the sector, its components and its developments; - developing cross-border cooperation between the various actors involved in tourism, with a view in particular to promoting the diversification of activities and their development in harmony with the environment; - promoting Europe as a tourist destination in distant third countries. In 1993, the 1992 actions were implemented in more detail, thanks to the first real three-year action plan that the Community adopted in July 1992, with a budget of ECU 18 million. Three main issues were retained: - greater consideration of tourism in Community policies and in the Member States; - collaboration with sector representatives and various professional groups; - support for specific activities. In addition to these direct measures, the communication analysed the policies, programmes and other measures that had an impact on tourism: from the free movement of persons to taxation, through the policies on consumers, transport and the environment. ?

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By adopting the report the Committee has called on the Commission to set up a European Tourism Agency, which, in cooperation with the European Environment Agency, could help to establish the priorities for a Community policy on environmentally responsible tourism, assess the capacity of certain saturated coastal areas or of over-exploited resources such as water etc., and at the same time monitor compliance with the required quality standards. The rapporteur expressed her astonishment that the Maastricht Treaty almost totally ignores tourism despite its predominant role within the Union and said : "Tourism is a key factor in the European economy and European competitiveness. At the time Europe is racked by unemployment, tourism creates nine million jobs, i.e. 6% of direct EU employment, not to mention the jobs indirectly related to tourism". The rapporteur said : "What needs to be done is to look to the future so that we can draw up a new Community policy on the subject. This is something we can only do by trying to influence the Council and the Commission regarding the substance of the forthcoming Commission Green Paper on tourism". The rapporteur added: "In this new resolution we are basically calling for once again the next revision of the Treaty in 1996 to include a specific section on tourism with a view, once and for all, to establishing such an important EU activity on a firm and consistent foundation. What Parliament is calling for, will constitute the "backbone" of the forthcoming Green Paper. On the other hand, the Committee wants a European Tourism Policy that strives for quality levels and well being, both for tourists and for the people who lives in tourist areas. But this must be achieved through the setting of ambitious social, employment, economic and environmental objectives. Therefore, a tourism quality label should be introduced for tourist centres, travel agencies, hotel and accommodation businesses and also local authorities, provided that they practise environmentally-sound tourism. The Committee, considering that tourists have specific rights AND obligations, is in favour of a European Tourists' Charter, to draw up by the Committee itself, which should form part of all information and distribution campaigns undertaken by agencies, wholesalers and operators. The report also calls for recommendations in the Commission's Green Paper: - excessive tourism provision should be avoided, and it should even be recommended that, in certain mountain and coastal areas, provision should be reduced; - a basis should be established for regulating the growth in water-based tourism which, because of a lack of regulation, is doing increasing damage to the environment and sea bed; - the introduction of a European Tourist label, similar to the 'eco label' or the 'Grüne Koffer', which would be a distinguishing sign and serve as guidance to tourists regarding tourist centres, travel agencies and hotels which developed and promoted tourism which was compatible with the natural and social environment and with natural resources; - the principle of municipal environment auditing should be based on: waste, consumption of water, energy and resources, water pollution, pollution caused by waste water, recycling and re-use, traffic, noise and air pollution, land use, zoning and planning, protection of sensitive areas, forests, soils, agriculture etc. Finally, the report calls for specific measures and initiatives devoted to disabled tourists, for arbitration bodies to settle disputes on the deplorable practice of overbooking and for specific measures to promote youth tourism. Some amendments carried: Mr. Lyndon HARRISON (UK, PES) saw his amendment carried on calling upon the Commission to promote policies to help SMEs in the tourism sector. Mrs. Hedwig KEPPELHOFF-WIECHERT and Mr. Georg JARZEMBOWSKI (both D, EPP) tabled a successful amendment on the significance of rural tourism for the economic development of rural areas and for safeguarding the basis of the livelihood of many farming families. And Mrs. Nel VAN DIJK and Mr. Alexander LANGER (NL and I, GREEN) got the full support of the Committee for the amendment taking the view that assistance should be provided as matter of urgency for a public campaign to combat sex tourism to third countries. An amendment tabled by Mrs. Anne Caroline McINTOSH (UK, EPP), calling on the Commission and the Council to promote Europe as a global destination for tourist in cooperation with America, the Far East and Africa, was also adopted. ?