



Insight into tourism-related EU policies



Contents

- Institutions of EU and their involvement with tourism
- Tourism related EU legislation
- Tourism actors in EU
- EU funding for tourism development



Quiz I: who are they? what do they do?

- **the European Parliament**

- ✓ represents the people of Europe (785 members from 27 countries)
- ✓ passes laws, approves the budget
- ✓ sits according to the political groups (the largest: the centre-right European People's Party (Christian Democrats), the Socialists, the Liberals and the Greens)

- **the Council of the European Union**

- ✓ represents national governments
- ✓ passes laws and takes policy decisions, approves the budget

- **the European Commission**

- ✓ represents the common EU interest
- ✓ proposes new laws
- ✓ manages implementation of EU policies and spending of EU funds



Quiz I: who are they? what do they do?

- **the European Economic and Social Committee**
 - ✓ represent interests: employers, employees, consumers, ecologists
 - ✓ advises – must give its opinion on proposed EU decisions about employment, social spending, vocational training, etc.
- **the Committee of the Regions**
 - ✓ represents regional governments and cities
 - ✓ is consulted on upcoming EU decisions with a direct impact at the local or regional level in fields such as transport, health, employment or education
- **What are the other EU institutions?**

The Court of Justice	The European Central Bank
The Court of Auditors	The European Investment Bank



Which EU institutions care of tourism? (1)

the European Parliament

Committee on Transport and Tourism

In progress

- Regional aspects of the impact of tourism in coastal regions
2008/2132(INI) - TRAN/6/64358 FERRARI ALDE

The Greens | European Free Alliance

- Main topic in relation to tourism - climate change
(e.g. a conference in Brussels on July 3, 2008), tourism and transport - to some extent



Intergroup Tourism in the European Parliament



Which institutions care of tourism? (2)

The Council

- Tourism Advisory Committee - annual reporting of the member states
- Specialised tourism conferences under different presidencies
- Occasional informal EU Ministerial Meeting
 - ✓ German Presidency: Specialised EU Tourism Conference – combined with informal EU Ministerial Meeting
 - ✓ Portuguese Presidency: Tourism Innovation in Europe
 - ✓ UK Presidency: European Cultural Tourism Network 2nd Annual Conference



Which institutions care of tourism? (3)

the European Commission:

DG Enterprise and Industry: Tourism section

- **Main activities**
 - ✓ Destinations of Excellence
 - ✓ Tourism Sustainability Group
 - ✓ Sustainability and Competitiveness
 - ✓ Tourism Satellite Accounts
 - ✓ Social Tourism
 - ✓ Tourism Accessibility
 - ✓ Quality in Tourism Products



Do you think tourism is an industry?

- The definition of tourism as an industry gives priority to the business interests that supply tourism services
- The definition of tourism as a system includes environmental and consumer organisations, as well as business interests, as equal partners.



Quote: trade representative

- “The Tourism Unit talk a lot to, they are very anxious to include in the discussions almost as equal partners with the industry, people who work in environmental and consumers’ bodies. I actually think that is wrong because they have got entire directorate generals behind them. There is one for environment, as you know, one for consumers’ affairs, as you know. There is not one for tourism.”



Response of the Tourism Unit representative

- the supply side of the tourism sector is being looked after by member states whereas consumers, who are not nation-specific, are not. They also added that tourism does not exist without tourists (consumers) and thus, it is of prime importance to protect their rights. Tourism development is also inextricably linked to the quality of the environment and it is essential that environmental matters are taken into account when thinking about tourism.



Which institutions care of tourism? (4)

the European Economic and Social Committee

- Group III: Various Interests Group

Relevant sections:

- NAT: Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
- SDO: Sustainable Development Observatory



Which institutions care of tourism? (5)

- **the Committee of the Regions: Commission for Sustainable Development (DEVE)**
 - ✓ Tourism is among the main 8 competencies
 - ✓ Not that much in the Work Programme 2008
 - ✓ Seminar: Regions Leading the Way Towards a New European Tourism Policy, Palma de Mallorca, Spain, 5 March 2007



Extra question Quiz I

- How many stars there are in EU flag?





Quiz on legislation: what are these?

- **Treaty**

“primary legislation”: founding treaties (Treaty on EC (Rome), Treaty on EU (Maastricht); amendment treaties (Nice); accession treaties

- **Directive**

aligns national legislation, binding to the Member States, should be transposed to national legislation. Adopted by Council+Parliament or Commission

- **Decision**

binding immediately, on particular matter and for specified recipients. Adopted by Council or Council+Parliament or Commission

- **Regulation**

are addressed to everyone, directly applicable – law with immediate effect, adopted by the Council+Parliament or Commission



Lisbon treaty

- the European Constitution (2004) was rejected and replaced by Treaty of Lisbon (2007)
- Should come to force in 2009
- Ireland voted against in 2008
- The future of the treaty is uncertain

!!! It contains an article on tourism



Lisbon Treaty tourism article

- The Union shall complement the action of the Member States** in the tourism sector, in particular by promoting the competitiveness of Union undertakings in that sector.
To that end, Union action shall be aimed at:
 - encouraging the **creation of a favourable environment for the development of undertakings** in this sector;
 - promoting cooperation** between the Member States, particularly by the **exchange of good practice**.
- The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish specific measures to complement actions within the Member States to achieve the objectives referred to in this Article, **excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States**.



Subsidiarity principle

- action at EU level should be only take place if it is more effective than the action taken at the national, regional or local level.



Quiz on legislation: what are these?

- **Recommendation**

Non-binding; institutions announces its views and suggests a line of action – no legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed

- **Opinion**

Non-binding; institution makes a statement – no legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

- **Resolution**

Non-binding; institution express approval or disapproval in such case where they have no jurisdiction (no voting right) – kind of moral support



Quiz on legislation: what are these?

- **Communications from the Commission (COM)**

Legislative proposals, green papers and white papers

- **Green Papers**

goal: to stimulate thinking and launch consultation at European level on a particular subject.

- **White Papers**

set of proposals for action by the Community in a particular field. They sometimes follow on from Green Papers, If a White Paper is favourably received by the Council, it can lead, if appropriate, to an EU action programme in the field concerned.



Communications from the Commission

- **Basic orientations for the sustainability of European tourism – COM(2003)716**
- **A renewed EU tourism policy: towards a stronger partnership for European tourism – COM(2006)134**
 - ✓ the main objective: to contribute to "improving the competitiveness of the European tourism industry and creating more and better jobs through the sustainable growth of tourism in Europe and globally"
 - ✓ "making growth and jobs the immediate target goes hand in hand with promoting social or environmental objectives"



Communications from the Commission

- Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism – COM(2007)621
 - ✓ Based on the report of Tourism Sustainability Group2 (TSG) “*Action for more sustainable European tourism*”, February 2007.
 - ✓ Public consultation took place



Contents of COM(2007)621

Aims to create “the right balance between the welfare of tourists, the needs of the natural and cultural environment and the development and competitiveness of destinations and businesses”

Principles: 1) Take a holistic and integrated approach, 2) plan for the long term

Among the actions: Mainstreaming sustainability and competitiveness in Commission policies

Progress evaluation report in 2011

Co-decision procedure





Tourism Interest Groups: Euro-Associations

- **HOTREC** • Confederation of the National Associations of Hotel, Restaurants and Similar Establishments in the EU and the EEA
- **ETOA** • The European Tour Operators Association
- **IHRA** • International Hotel and Restaurant Association
- **ECTAA** • Group of National Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Associations
- **UFTAA** • United Federation of Travel Agents' Association
- **IFTO** • Federation of International Tour Operators
- **NET** • Network of European private entrepreneurs in the Tourism sector



Quote: trade representative 6

“There is a considerable degree of mistrust and certainly if you have got similar organisations which are a lot of sort of duplicate organisations representing sectors, there is the ... [list of associations]. I mean they are naturally weary of one another.”



Quote 2: trade representative 2

“Trade associations in any case in Brussels whether it is tourism or otherwise are, from what I gather, having sort of harder times at the moment. Increasingly people in the institutions like to go direct to big companies or they want to talk to the industry themselves, they say they want people with hands on experience which rather make a mockery of the trade associations, who are there to represent the industry. So it is a complicated issue.”



Quote: civil servant 1

“Not all of the organisations represent the people in their Member States. They might not even represent the majority. But it is reaching the maximum amount of people through the minimum amount of contacts because it has got to be a realistic level. Not all industry groupings have effective European level representation.”

There is time pressure and the large number of groups - that's why Commission representatives maintain regular contact with only some organisations or Chief Executive Officers only



Communication on Biodiversity

- Action Plan of the Communication on Biodiversity: Support the Implementation of CBD Guidelines on Tourism and Biodiversity



Thank you for your attention!

Q&A

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