



High-level conference on **tourism**

Brussels, 27 September 2017, Hemicycle of the European Parliament

'A European strategy to enhance the competitiveness of the tourism industry, a key driver for job creation'

On 25 March 2017, the leaders of the EU institutions and of the 27 Member States signed a solemn Declaration in Rome marking the anniversary of the Treaties. This Declaration emphasises that growth and employment are main priorities for the Union.

The tourism industry is a strategic sector in that context. Today, directly and indirectly, it already accounts for some 10% of GDP and jobs in Europe. Tourism also generates spin-offs in other key sectors, such as retail, agriculture and food, transport, construction, cultural and creative industries, textiles and shipbuilding.

At a time when the digital revolution, advanced manufacturing techniques and robotics lead to a diminished reliance on labour, tourism remains one of the most labour-intensive industries.

According to the World Tourism and Travel Council, more than 5 million new jobs linked to tourism may be created in the European Union over the next 10 years. 20% of these jobs go to young people under 25. Tourism hence represents a main avenue to combat youth unemployment, especially in several southern Regions where one out of two youths are unemployed.

The number of international tourists are set to double, from 1.1 billion to more than 2 billion, between now and 2030. Many of these tourists will come from an emerging new class with high spending power, half of which will come from Asia.

Europe, with its unique cultural heritage, landscape and nature, can attract a good part of this new demand. However, it would be a serious mistake to simply wait for this new growth to arrive like manna from heaven. Until the end of the 1990s, Europe played host to more than half the world's tourists; today, although it remains the world's first destination, that figure has dropped to 42%, and it is set to dwindle further to 30% by 2030.

Competition from new tourist destinations is increasing at a time when the European industry is facing significant challenges: investments, the digital revolution, the business environment, upgrading of skills, the fragmentation of efforts in promoting Europe as a destination and sustainability. To exploit the full potential of this sector the Union should support the effort of the tourism industry to become more competitive, transforming these challenges into opportunities.

The European Parliament is very active in this area, through the work of its Committee on Transport and Tourism, of a Task Force and of the Intergroup on Tourism and other relevant Committees. In September 2015, it adopted a resolution calling for an integrated European tourism policy.

For these reasons, on the 27 of September, World Tourism Day, the European Parliament is organising a high-level event to promote a European strategy on tourism as a key driver of growth and job creation.

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Hemicycle of the European Parliament – 27 September 2017, 14:00-19:00

Programme

12:30 Registration

14:00 - 15.20 Opening

President of the European Parliament, A. Tajani

European Commission Vice President for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, J. Katainen

Introduction

- European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, E. Bieńkowska
- Director General of UNESCO, I. Bokova
- European Economic and Social Committee President, G. Dassis
- European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, K. Vella
- President of the European Committee of the Regions, K-H. Lambertz
- Head of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union, HE Ambassador Mme. Yanyi Yang
- Member of the European Parliament and Intergroup Co-Chair on "European tourism development, cultural heritage, Ways of St. James and other European cultural routes", C. Țapardel
- Member of the European Parliament and Vice Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, I. Ujhelyi
- European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, T. Navracsics

15.20 - 17.15 Round table: How to attract more investment; improve the business environment and upgrading skills

Chair: Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, K. Delli

Introduction: European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, M. Thyssen

Guests: Vice President of the European Investment Bank, V. Húdak and
Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Bulgaria, N. Angelkova

Speakers: Member of the European Parliament and Intergroup Co-Chair on "European tourism development, cultural heritage, Ways of St. James and other European cultural routes", F. Millan Mon

Member of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, M. Kyrkos.

Executive Director of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, M. Favilla

Regional Minister for Economic Development of the Region of Lombardia, M. Parolini.

President of HOTREC, S. Kraus-Winkler,

President of the European Travel Commission, P. De Wilde,

President of Federturismo, G. Battisti.

Chief Marketing Officer of Ryanair, K. Jacobs,

President of NECSTouR, P. Torrent,

President and Chief Executive Officer of the World Travel & Tourism Council, G. Guevara Manzo

Topics for discussion: *EFSI 2.0, Taxation, Administrative obstacles and red tape, Connectivity, Infrastructure, Vocational training, Energy efficiency, Regional funds use, European Investment Bank, Horizon 2020, COSME, and the next budget*

17:15 - 18:55 Round table: Tourism innovation and digital economy

Chair: Member of the European Parliament and First Vice Chair of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection, A. Corazza-Bildt

Introduction: European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, M. Gabriel

Guest: Minister of Tourism of Romania, T. Dobre

Speakers: Member of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, C. Monteiro de Aguiar.

Member of the European Parliament, of the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection and Rapporteur on a European Agenda for the collaborative economy, N. Danti

President of Confturismo-Confcommercio, L. Patanè,

Executive Director of the European Travel Commission, E. Santander,

Vice President for Industry Affairs and Corporate Social Responsibility of Amadeus IT Group, S. Leirvaag,

Regional Minister for Tourism, Culture and Environment of the Region of Murcia, J.Celdrán

Associate Professor of Economic Policy and Director of the Master of Economics of Tourism at Bocconi University, M. Antonioli,

Global Director of Partner Services and Managing Director EMEA of Booking.com, P. Verhoeven,

President of ChinaEU, L. Gambardella.

Topics for discussion: *The role of digital platforms, increased reality and time travel and Collaborative economy*

17:15 - 18:55 Round table: Promoting Europe as the number one tourist destination (in parallel, in room PHS 3C50)

Chair: Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Culture and Education, P. Kammerevert

Guests: Mayor of Venice, L. Brugnaro, Deputy Mayor of Budapest, A. Szalay-Bobrovniczky, Mayor of Constanța, D. Făgădău, Chair of the China Tourism Academy, B. Dai.

Speakers: Member of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Transport and Tourism and Rapporteur on New challenges and concepts for the promotion of Tourism in Europe, I. De Monte.

Member of the European Parliament and of the Committee on Regional Development, I. Jakovčić

President of the Commission for Natural Resources of the European Committee of the Regions,

O. Martikainen

President of the Regional Parliament of the Region of Tyrol, H. Van Staa.

Regional Minister for Tourism of the Region of Emilia Romagna, A. Corsini.

Vice Chairwoman and Secretary General of the Global Tourism Economy Forum, P. Ho,

Chair of Value Retail PLC, D. Bollier,

Senior Vice President for Strategy and Investor Relations of Ctrip, Z. Xiaolu,

Vice Chair of the Fondazione Altagamma, A. Branchini,

President of the Associazione Dimore Storiche Italiane, G. Della Gherardesca,

Tourism Director of the Region of Galicia, N. Castro

Topics for discussion: *Platform to support the promotion of Europe in third countries, Transnational tourism products (European Council Itineraries, etc.), EU Tourism Year - China and the European Year of Cultural Heritage*

#TourismEU

For other linguistic versions visit

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20170901ST082905/parliament-to-host-conference-on-tourism>