



CEI PD Parliamentary Committee Meeting, Zagreb, 13-14 May 2018

Sustainable Tourism: The Role of Parliaments”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To be sustainable, tourism must be economically viable, meet the needs of society and conserve the environment and cultural heritage. It should continue to deliver benefits without detriment to current and future generations. Business development should go hand in hand with development of the area, local communities, taking into account their history, cultural heritage, nature landscapes, natural resources, challenges of climate change, and changes in the trends of tourist behavior and habits. Sustainable tourism provides both directly and indirectly, a market for goods and services in a wide range of sectors; transport, retailing, construction, culture, sports, food processing, fishing and agriculture.

Responsible tourism stands for responsibility for decisions, actions and policies of all those involved in the planning, management, delivery and consumption of tourism, so that it is sustainable over time. Responsible actions ensure that tourism develops sustainably at all levels by all stakeholders. This is where parliaments can have an important role.

National parliaments and governments are advised to take into consideration the great importance of strengthening cross-sectorial cooperation between tourism and culture when operating and proposing legislative initiatives. Tourism can contribute to the creation of jobs, but it cannot act autonomously without continuous and responsible care for cultural values and heritage at a destination. Tourism can contribute to culture in various ways, one of them being the tourist presentation of cultural heritage.

Regional cooperation plays a crucial role in the development of tourism. Some advantages of EU membership are easier access to the EU funds and common market. In this sense, all Member States are recommended to make efforts that will allow maximum use of the resources provided, and the countries that are in the process of negotiations on EU membership are recommended to timely prepare for the use of these development opportunities.

Numerous sustainable tourism initiatives, particularly in tourism infrastructure, have proved to be financially and socially viable in the long run, which is why they should be strongly encouraged and promoted; all the necessary mechanisms should be launched to utilize numerous potential sources from favorable banking loans to various European funds in this area

The care and promotion of heritage (natural, traditional, culinary, linguistic, historical, architectural, cultural etc.) provide room for launching new and responsible entrepreneur initiatives. The implementation of such initiatives would create possibilities for opening new jobs, especially for the employment of young people of various professions who would use their knowledge to interpret and protect heritage.

A balanced approach to economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of sustainability should be ensured by preserving cultural and natural resources, including biodiversity, as well as development of social equity in the pursuit of economic competitiveness.

Background information consists of positions, statements and recommendations stated in:

European Charter for Sustainable and Responsible Tourism (EUROPARC Federation)
http://www.euoparc.org/?utm_source=ep&utm_medium=header&utm_campaign=linktrack&utm_content=logo

European Commission Consultation Document 2012, ENTR.F1 D(2011)
<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/consultation-stakeholders-european-charter-sustainable-and-responsible-tourism-is>

Conclusion and Recommendations of the European Interparliamentary Conference: "Challenges of Sustainable Tourism: Promoting Cultural Heritage and Environment Protection", 2014