

**Question for written answer E-002057/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Differentiated charging for tourists in popular EU destinations

In a situation where the EU is facing over-crowded tourist destinations, and where local communities are increasingly rejecting tourists, in some locations there are differentiated charges for certain tourist services; this situation can upset visitors and have an adverse effect on sustainable tourism.

One example is Venice, where tourists are charged differently to residents in restaurants, museums and on public transport. There are many cases where tourists have paid EUR 7 for a boat trip, while the fare for residents is just EUR 1.30. Moreover, visitors pay EUR 5 to use public wi-fi networks, while residents are able to use them free of charge. The situation is similar in other popular tourist destinations, such as Barcelona and Paris.

Differentiated charging based on nationality is contrary to the EU's principle of equality. Given the lack of measures aimed at stopping this practice, there is a risk that the reputation of these tourist destinations will be affected.

In view of this:

What specific measures will the Commission consider to combat the practice of differentiated charging to tourists who visit Member States?

Does the Commission plan to take any legislative action to punish those who engage in these discriminatory practices?