

**Question for written answer P-007585/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: A European Tourist Board - addendum

With reference to a question of mine, I am grateful for the reply E-001786/2015 by Commissioner Bienkowska in which the Commission draws attention to the European Tourist Commission (1) (ETC), which brings together national tourist organisations from 33 European countries, and which was founded in 1948 with the aim of promoting Europe as a tourist destination on the main international tourist markets. However, I must point out that this is an international association that does not form part of the European Commission, is not an EU institution and is neither territorially nor functionally linked with the EU but includes other interested tourism countries which are not necessarily EU Member States. It follows from all of the above that the ETC is not, nor can it by its function, structure and territorial designation be an institution responsible for systematic promotion of tourism in the EU. Moreover, it is necessary to have a common European body that will strengthen the competitiveness of the sector, encourage innovation and good investment, coordinate visa regimes of the Member States in relation to third countries and indeed perform many other tasks to enhance the position of Europe in the tourist market. Based on the above I am asking the following additional question:

Does the Commission intend to create an institutional framework (a possible name would be the European Tourist Board) for European tourism which would, in addition to promotion, work on strengthening competitiveness, on innovation and everything that is needed for European tourism to retain the leading position in the world?