Question for written answer P-010194/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Conditions for the public funding of tourism

While the 'Juncker plan' seeks to mobilise private capital for public infrastructure projects, German organisations marketing tourism report of decisions being taken at EU level that are at odds with this plan. Tourism organisations have for years been forced to boost their budgets through cooperation with the private sector, because many public sources of funding have dried up and debt-induced austerity means that careful budgeting is necessary.

In some cases, business models have been established involving a financial contribution from private providers, which is what the EU seeks to achieve with the Juncker Plan. However, according to German tourism organisations, the conditions attached have been considerably tightened. Any body wishing to receive public funds must be 100% owned by a public contracting authority, may only generate a maximum of 20% of its revenue from third-party or foreign sales and at least 80% of its commercial activities must be carried out on behalf of the contracting authority; finally, it must be able to generate at least 51% of its activities from sources other than its own income.

In view of the above, will the Commission say.

1. On the basis of which court decisions or legislative measures have the State Aid Law and the Procurement Law been tightened up in these areas?

2. Are tourism organisations right to be concerned that a significant change in the structures of tourism is inevitable as a result of these measures?

3. How does it assess the impact, effectiveness and capital expenditure of tourist facilities to date and does it believe that the 'back-to-State-funding' model is the right way to promote private initiatives?