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Creation date: 24-02-2020
Tourism and the European Union: Recent trends and policy developments

Publication type: In-Depth Analysis
Date: 25-09-2015
Author: Maria Niestadt
Policy area: Tourism
Keyword: travel | consumer protection | EU regional policy | economic statistics | admission of aliens | small and medium-sized enterprises | electronic commerce | economic consequence | tourist exchange | consumer behaviour | tourism policy | common transport policy | EU competence | Treaty of Lisbon
Summary: Tourism is the third largest socio-economic activity in the European Union, making an important contribution to the EU economy and to job creation. Europe is the most visited region in the world. However, tourism in other regions is growing faster and Europe's market share, in terms of international tourist arrivals and receipts, is shrinking.

Tourism businesses in the EU are confronted with a number of changes in tourist profile and behaviour, for example in terms of age, country of origin, how they plan and buy their travel, or which mode of transport they use.

Tourism policy remains a competence of the Member States. As the Treaties allow the EU only to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States, EU tourism policy has been rather limited, consisting mainly in providing financial support or legislating through other EU policies. The current framework for tourism policy is based upon a 2010 Communication; a revised strategy is expected to be adopted by the European Commission later in 2015.

In-Depth Analysis DE, EN, FR

Tourism in the EU economy

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 07-07-2014
Author: Alessandra DI TELLA | Eulalia CLAROS GIMENO
Policy area: Tourism
Keyword: travel | EU Member State | female work | seasonal employment | tourist profession | economic consequence | tourist exchange | travel agency | catering industry | tourism statistics | added value | hotel industry | EU statistics
Summary: Tourism plays a major role in the EU and global economies. The impact of tourism in the world economy is estimated as 9% of world GDP, while in the EU it is the third-largest socio-economic sector and has generally remained robust throughout the financial crisis. This spotlight presents some background data on selected aspects of tourism in the EU economy.

Briefing EN

Tourism in times of crisis

Publication type: Briefing
Date: 13-12-2012
Author: Eulalia CLAROS GIMENO
Policy area: Tourism
Keyword: business tourism | employment statistics | tourist exchange | gross domestic product | tourism statistics | EU statistics
Summary: The European Commission published the European tourism strategy in June 2010. Coming in the wake of the financial and economic crisis, its aim was to maintain Europe as the world's top tourist destination. The strategy proposed, among other initiatives to extend tourism seasons, diversify the offer and improve the professional skills of the tourism workforce. Furthermore, earlier this year, the World Tourism Organisation marked the milestone of 1 billion tourists in a year at World Tourism Day.

Briefing EN