

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
THE CHAIRWOMAN

TRAN/D/2020/22353

D 307585 16.07.2020

Open letter to the EU Heads of State and Government, and to the German Presidency of the Council of the EU, calling for the allocation of Dedicated Funding for Sustainable Tourism in the MFF 2021-2027

Dear Presidents, Dear Prime Ministers, Dear Mr. European Council President Michel,

As a consequence of the virus outbreak, the tourism sector within the EU is facing unprecedented challenges. Thousands of companies in the tourism space are facing insolvency. Many others are barely staying afloat. In some EU countries, the hard-hit tourism sector has led to significant decreases in the country's GDP and the State's tax intake.

The Tourism and Transport package, and the proposed EU Recovery Plan, put forward by the European Commission in May, include a reinforced long-term EU budget (MFF 2021-2027) and a new recovery instrument of EUR 750 billion, key first steps towards relaunching tourism in the EU.

At the peak of the tourist season however, confidence and trust in travel have not been restored yet, as the ongoing shortfall in tourist numbers shows. Despite the measures taken so far, it is becoming increasingly clear that more efforts both in the short and in the long term are needed.

The share that the travel and tourism sector contributes to any Member state's GDP, as outlined in the Parliament's resolution on [tourism and transport in 2020 and beyond](#), is significant. Since the sector is one of the economic activities worst affected by the COVID-19 crisis, it must be given due importance in the EU Recovery Plan. This must include the option of providing further financial support.

The Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism have been voicing their urgent concern since the very start of this crisis, naming the coordinated relaunch of the tourism sector at EU level an immediate strategic priority, both for the EU institutions and for the Member States. Nonetheless, any real progress can only be achieved through close cooperation at all levels.

At this crucial stage of negotiations on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, and at the eve of the European Council meeting on July 17-18, the Members of Committee on Transport and Tourism call upon the EU Presidency and on each and every one of you, to reconsider how a **dedicated budget line on sustainable tourism** in the next multiannual financial framework could achieve a very significant difference for the sector.

We recall here that the European Parliament's mandate in the MFF negotiations specifically included a EUR 300 million allocation, earmarked towards sustainable tourism. Regrettably, calls for a dedicated budget line towards sustainable tourism have been repeatedly ignored, and, consequently, such was not included in the revised long-term EU budget for 2021-2027.

The option of allocating funds to tourism from various financial lines is in principle commendable, but it will do little to help micro-enterprises and SMEs, as they will struggle to understand the myriad of different funding opportunities and how to access them.

Creating a specific budget line for sustainable tourism in the next MFF would enhance growth and job creation: thereby paving the way towards responsible, competitive and sustainable tourism development policies.

Hoping you will take the necessary action towards our request at this European Council meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karima DELLI', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karima DELLI on behalf of the EP's Committee on Transport and Tourism