

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

**Statement from the Members of the Tourism Task Force of the European Parliament
on the Occasion of the European Tourism Convention (October 12th, 2020)**

The Members of the European Parliament's Tourism Task Force (TTF), part of the Committee on Transport and Tourism, advocate taking very concrete steps towards establishing a broad, EU-wide Strategy on Tourism. The challenging situation, in which the tourism sector finds itself, in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, urges us to seek creative and unprecedented solutions: new, creative compromise solutions in support of the companies and people operating in this sector are called for. Crucially, we must assess whatever failed to work, and what options would work out well in the near future. When that has been properly assessed, common efforts can be invested towards building a more competitive and sustainable travel and tourism sector.

The Tourism sector is in urgent need of:

) EU-level coordination of travel restrictions, hygiene and health protocols:

In this regard, TTF calls on the German Council's Presidency and on the Member States to adopt the Council recommendation on a coordinated approach to the current curbs on free movement. It is crucial that a common EU testing protocol for travel be a part of this recommendation. Wherever possible, the possibility to undergo tests for COVID-19 infection instead of quarantine should be the preferred option. Furthermore, all and any restrictive measures taken by individual Member States, must not only be coordinated, but also clearly communicated at the EU level.

) Consistent and transparent criteria to assess risks across the EU:

The criteria used, as well as the information provided to travellers, must be common and transparent. All restrictive measures must be applied across the board in airports, ports and at other hubs and modes of transport and transit. The same uniform criteria on non-essential travel could be adapted at the external borders of the EU, without hampering public health and safety.

) Direct and dedicated financial support:

A dedicated budget line in the next long-term EU budget towards implementing a common vision for sustainable tourism should ensure that this economic sector will stand a chance to get firmly back on its feet - in an even more resilient and sustainable way, on the basis of the share that the travel and tourism sector contributes to a Member State's GDP.

Looking into the future, a clear path is needed towards a genuine EU policy for sustainable tourism: this Convention has to be a first step, looking into the following aspects:

) Establish a Crisis Management Mechanism, to be prepared for possible future crisis.

- J Establish an EU Tourism Strategy for sustainable tourism, including a detailed action plan with short-, medium- and long-term objectives, and proposing that Member States set clear, strategic and results-oriented objectives.
- J Establish Governance in the tourism sector at EU level to measure sustainability criteria (economic, social and environmental impacts) with clear metrics, control and monitoring, as well as based on structural and institutional co-operation among the EU institutions.
- J Establish a clear action plan to help the sector manage the twin transition to digital and greener, including a safety component.

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