

Directorate-General for Internal Policies of the Union
Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies
Secretariat of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

24/11/2020

Overview of the Work Programme of the Tourism Task Force 2d half of 2020

STATE OF PLAY

1. Tourism Task Force (TTF) Meetings

The following meetings took place:

- J **14 July 2020:** Exchange of views with newly appointed Director General of DG GROW, Ms Kerstin Jorna - with a focus on tourism funding in revised MFF and Recovery Instrument;
- J **20 July 2020:** an extraordinary TTF follow-up meeting with Ms Jorna (DG GROW) to analyse the EP Resolution on the Transport and Tourism in 2020 and beyond.
- J **23 September 2020:** Exchange of views with key Tourism stakeholders on the situation of the European Tourism sector following the Covid-19 crisis (five speakers representing UNWTO, ETC, WTTC, NECSTouR, Regional Government of Andalucía)

J *An exchange of views with Mr Thierry Breton, the Commissioner in charge of Tourism, was planned, but due to the limited time slots in remote mode, priority was given to the public hearing on tourism.*

2. Own-Initiative Report:

An ongoing work on INI report Establishing an EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism: Rapporteur Claudia Monteiro De Aguiar presented her draft report at TRAN on 28 October. 452 amendments were tabled by the deadline. The exchange of views initially planned for December TRAN is postponed to January (and vote to February), to properly deal with the large amount on amendments.

3. Public Hearing:

“Future-proofing the Tourism Sector: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead”, held on **30 November 2020** with remote participation of TRAN Members and invited speakers.

Main topics discussed:

- Planning the future for the industry: towards an EU tourism policy
- Transition to sustainable, responsible and smart tourism: enabling the future through innovation

Invited speakers:

- Mr. Thomas ELLERBECK, Group Director Corporate & External Affairs of TUI Group
- Mr. Morgan FOULKES, Deputy Director General ACI EUROPE
- Mr. Tony ZAHRA, President of the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation
- Mr. Ukko METSOLA, Director General for CLIA in Europe
- Ms. Marie AUDREN, Director General HOTREC
- Mr. Prosper WANNER, Les Oiseaux de Passage and Sardaigne en Liberté

4. Studies

The contractor for the study on a roadmap for relaunching transport and tourism in the EU after COVID-19 has been selected and started work. This research project includes a main study and the selection of several thematic briefings and rapid -response briefings.

5. Other Tourism related issues:

- J European Commission: the aim at ensuring closer involvement of the TTF in the organization of the **European Tourism Convention** in autumn was only partially achieved. This event organized by the Commission took place on 12 October 2020 in remote participation. TRAN Chairwoman Karima Delli represented the EP at the plenary debate, and Steering Group Member MEP István Ujhelyi- in one of the thematic workshops. The Members of the Tourism Task Force and its Steering Group contributed a written statement.
<https://tourism-convention.eu/statements/>
- J The **European Tourism Forum** organized by the German Presidency with the Commission was held on 23 October 2020 with TRAN Rapporteur on tourism INI report MEP Monteiro De Aguiar as one of the keynote speakers, focusing on the measures policy-makers should take in order to support post-lockdown efforts to stabilise and to reorient Europe's tourism industry.
- J MFF/Budget:
 - In addition to informal contacts with the German Presidency on budget allocation for the tourism sector, a letter was sent by TRAN Chairwoman and TTF Steering Group on the current situation in the tourism sector, once again calling on Member States to include tourism in their national recovery plans, and asking to support a dedicated budget line for tourism in the next MMF.
 - Continued coordinated preparation of PPs and PAs in the tourism area: the jointly agreed project on establishing a European crisis management mechanism in tourism was submitted and finally endorsed.
- J Close monitoring of the exit strategy implementation from the restriction imposed during the virus outbreak by the Commission and the Member States.
(see below for the latest initiatives).

6. Input by TTF Steering Group Members

In the unprecedented situation created by the Covid 19 outbreak, which threw the whole travel and tourism sector into a deep crisis, TRAN Chairwoman and TTF Steering Group Members took several immediate initiatives in support of the sector.

TTF SG Members worked on raising the visibility of the TTF and general importance of tourism in the current situation by organizing various media activities with the European Parliament communication services.

Date	INITIATIVE/LETTER	TO - FROM
15 July 2020	Letter on Dedicated Funding for Sustainable Tourism in the MFF 2021-2027	TRAN Chairwoman Karima Delli to the EP President Mr Sassoli
16 July 2020	Open Letter calling for the allocation of Dedicated Funding for Sustainable Tourism in the MFF 2021-2027	TRAN Chairwoman Karima Delli on behalf of the TRAN Committee to the EU Heads of State and Government, and to the German Presidency of the Council of the EU
9 October 2020	Letter on the current situation in the tourism sector calling on coordinated and clearly communicated measures at the EU level when tackling the coronavirus pandemic.	TRAN Chairwoman Karima Delli and the TTF Steering Group Members of to Mr. Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister of Germany for Economic Affairs and Energy Mr. Thomas Bareiß, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy German Presidency of the Council of the EU
9 October 2020	Statement from the Members of the Tourism Task Force of the European Parliament	On the Occasion of the European Tourism Convention (October 12th, 2020)