

16 June 2020

WORK PROGRAMME ON TOURISM FOR 1st HALF OF 2020

STATE OF PLAY

1. Tourism Task Force (TTF) Meetings

The following meetings took place:

- J **19 February 2020:** In the first TTF meeting, Members exchanged views with Mr Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- J **21 April 2020:** an exchange of views took place with Mr Thierry Breton, the Commissioner in charge of Tourism, during the first TRAN meeting in remote mode. It focused on the consequences of the virus outbreak on the tourism sector, and on possible ways towards a coordinated recovery.
- J The situation in the tourism and travel sector was addressed during the TRAN meeting on **28 April** in an exchange of views with Transport Commissioner Valean.
- J A debate on the tourism and transport package setting out broad orientations for sustainable recovery was held at the TRAN meeting on **28 May 2020.**

- J The exchange of views planned for the 1st half 2020 with International Tourism Networks, had to be postponed due to restrictions imposed during the Covid pandemic.

2. Own-Initiative Report:

Establishing an EU Strategy for Sustainable Tourism (proposing coordinated and concrete measures, for example, a crisis management mechanism and mechanisms for effective cooperation in the tourism sector).

On 19 February, the Coordinators decided to allocate the report to EPP group. The Group appointed Ms Monteiro de Aguiar as a Rapporteur. The work on the report has begun and is to be presented to TRAN after the summer break.

3. Public Hearing: *Sustainable development of cruise tourism: the challenges ahead*

This public hearing had to be cancelled, further to the decision by the President of the Parliament, and due to the restrictions imposed during the Covid 19 pandemic.

4. Other Tourism related issues:

-) MFF/Budget:
After the TRAN meeting in January:
- A follow-up letter has been sent to the Croatian Minister of Tourism;
 - A meeting has been set up with two EP MFF Rapporteurs on 11 February at 16:00 (The Chair's letter them was sent out earlier in December 2019).
 - The TTF Steering group meeting with the Croatian Presidency on budgetary issues for the tourism sector was not possible, but the MEPs contacted individually the presidency.
-) Coordinated preparation of PPs and PAs in the tourism area: a common proposal on the establishing of a crisis mechanism was submitted to TRAN by the deadline on 15 April 2020.

5. Input by TTF Steering group Members

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

Date	INITIATIVE/LETTER	TO - FROM
6 March 2020	Letter on the EU-wide response to coronavirus	On behalf of the TTF Steering group to Commissioners Breton and Valean
24 March 2020	Letter on COVID-19: Tourism rescue action plan	On behalf of the Tourism Task Force Members of TRAN to Commissioners Breton and Valean
24 April 2020	Letter ahead of the Video Conference of EU Ministers of Tourism on Monday 27 th of April, on the COVID-19 outbreak and asking for support towards an European Crisis Management Mechanism in Tourism, and the creation of an EU seal of sanitary certification.	On behalf of the Tourism Task Force Members of TRAN to the President of the European Commission and the President of the European Council
24 April 2020	Letter ahead of the Video Conference of EU Ministers of Tourism on Monday 27 th of April, on the COVID-19 outbreak and asking for support for an European Crisis Management Mechanism in Tourism and the creation of an EU seal of sanitary certification.	On behalf of the Tourism Task Force Members of TRAN to the Council's presidency
28 April 2020	Letter on: Ad-hoc Network on Tourism and European Summit on Tourism	Further to the request by the TTF Steering group: TRAN Chairwoman to Commissioner Breton