

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

Overview of the Work Programme for the Tourism Task Force 2nd half 2022

STATE OF PLAY

1. Tourism Task Force (TTF) Meetings

During TRAN committee slots

- **12 July 2022:** Exchange of views on the Framework of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in travel and tourism sector with an aim to enlarging the place of tourism in this setting.
Aim: to discuss how corporate activity in the travel and tourism industry contributes to climate change, pollution, biodiversity, and the depletion of the world's natural resources. Companies across all tourism sectors face increasing pressure to adopt more socially sustainable practice.
- **26 September 2022:** Exchange of views on Advancing on-water recreation and tourism
Aim: to analyse new trends in on-water recreation area with a view to ensure European competitiveness in nautical tourism / boating industry, to address the current sustainability and infrastructure needs (e.g., lack of marinas in growing market, greening, alternative fuel infrastructure), as well as the needs for qualifications and licenses in this tourism segment
- **26 October 2022:** Exchange of views on Added value of block chain and crypto currency in the tourism industry - Smart travel and Smart Cities: Use and potential of block chain and crypto currency in tourism
Aim: to assess the potential of block chain and crypto currency in the tourism industry and discuss opportunities for enhanced digital cooperation among destinations, tourism and travel-tech players when it comes to data sharing and governance, as well as integrated planning, standards and processes.
- **8 December 2022 (TBC!):** Exchange of views with the Czech Presidency of the Council on the EU Agenda for Tourism
Aim: to present the newly adopted Council Recommendations on the EU Tourism Agenda.

Extraordinary TTF meetings (only TTF Members) or Steering Group meetings:

- **8 November 2022:** Update on progress towards the co-implementation of the Transition pathway for Tourism: meeting with the Ms Valentina Superti, Director in DG GROW.

Aim:

- *State of play of the implementation of the TT pathway after the publication of the second set of pledges at the end of October;*
- *Information on the EU Tourism Agenda 2030;*
- *Presentation of the short-term rentals proposal, adopted by the Commission on seventh of November.*

- **30 November 2022:** Informal presentation by the Commission representatives on the legislative proposal on short-term accommodation rental services, open to all TRAN Members, their assistants and political advisors.

2. Legislative and Non-Legislative Work:

- 1) Own-initiative Reports: *no new own-initiative report as the EU Agenda for Tourism has not been adopted yet*
- 2) TRAN remained involved in work with other committees on relevant tourism aspects. TRAN work on its opinion to the legislative proposal on the short-term accommodation rental services is at an early stage, since the Commission published their proposal on 7 November 2022. The first informal meeting was organized on 30 November.
- 3) TRAN has started drafting an opinion to REGI INI on an ‘Assessment of the new communication of the European Commission on Outermost Regions’. AS REGI plans to have a very short timetable, TRAN aims to finalising the opinion by the end of January.
- 4) Members attendance at the high-level conferences/events on tourism matters on *ad hoc* basis
TRAN Members took part in various events on tourism related matters, such as Global Tourism Forum on 6 September 2022, Informal Tourism Council on 15 November 2022 (TBC)

3. Public Hearings and Studies:

Depending on the results of the Coordinators meeting on 26 October, as there is one proposal also on tourism matters: **Impact of new climate policies on the outermost regions, especially in the transport and tourism sectors** (written deliverable).

4. Cooperation with Other EU Institutions and Stakeholders

- Establishing and maintaining contacts with the **Czech Presidency** by the TRAN Chairwoman and the TTF Steering Group:

13 July 2022: TTF Steering Group met Vice-Prime Minister for Digitisation and Minister for Regional Development Ivan Bartoš, responsible for tourism

- Upholding close cooperation with the **Commission** (Commissioner Breton and DG GROW) at the political and operational levels. (TTF Steering Group and TRAN Secretariat)
- Maintaining close cooperation, setting up regular meetings and considering joint initiatives with key **tourism stakeholders** (including entities, such as the UNWTO, ETC, WTTC, OECD and PATA. (TTF Steering Group and TRAN Secretariat).

5. Other Tourism-Related Activities:

- 1) EU Budgetary Matters: EP has positively voted on a PP - Building Capacity for Tourism ecosystem - Accessing EU funding proposed by TTF. The pilot project will assist access to a wider circle of tourism enterprises to EU funding.
- 2) Possible activities in the framework of European Year of Youth 2022: *no particular activity proposed so far.*
- 3) TTF keeps the right to propose and take appropriate initiatives, depending on circumstances and situation (letters, Motion for Resolution etc.)
- 4) TRAN missions:
 - a. **Madeira (Portugal)**, 11-13 April 2022: Travel and tourism sector is an essential part of this island's economy, therefore TRAN members touched upon those matter throughout the visit, in particular, they met with the 2^a Committee of Economy, Finance and Tourism of the Commercial and Industrial Association of Funchal, visited Porto Moniz to meet the representatives of the local tourism companies, all of them SMEs, to look into the challenges specific to the North coast of Madeira.
 - b. **Romania**, 23-25 May 2022: During this mission, TRAN delegation met with the Romanian Senate committee, responsible for tourism, with State Secretary Florin Dobrescu from the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Tourism, as well as with local stakeholders in the city of Constanta and Tulcea to discuss the development of sustainable mobility and tourism topics in the region.
 - c. **Washington DC**, 19-22 September 2022: The TRAN delegation met with stakeholders from the travel and tourism industry (US Travel Association, Expedia and Airbnb), as well as with the Congress Members from the relevant committees. They discussed trends and changes in the tourism sector over the last years, in the light of the consecutive crises, the increasing importance of sustainability, and the differences between US and EU situations.