



10.12.2012

0038/2012

WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure

on boosting nautical tourism in the European Union

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Lapse date: 14.3.2013

Written declaration on boosting nautical tourism in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Article 195 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that the Union shall complement the action of the Member States in the tourism sector, in particular by promoting the competitiveness of EU undertakings;
- B. whereas Europe is the world's No 1 tourist destination, and whereas a new political framework for tourism has been established at EU level, with Parliament taking on new competences and creating a Tourism Task Force, in order to increase the competitiveness and capacity for sustainable growth of this sector;
- C. whereas the EU's oceans, seas, rivers, internal waters and waterways possess enormous potential for nautical tourism, which should be developed within the EU's future policies and actions;
 1. Notes that the aim of ensuring that Europe remains the world's top tourist destination should be achieved through stronger promotion of its greatest nautical tourism assets in order to strengthen the EU's image at a global level and attract numerous foreign tourists;
 2. Stresses that nautical tourism provides an opportunity to give the EU's external and internal harbours a boost and to enhance economic growth and the development of coastal fishing areas, jobs and trade activities, such as the cruise industry, yachting and marinas;
 3. Recalls the importance of the Blue Growth initiative in nautical tourism and underlines its role in the promotion of leisure and sport activities, such as surfing, bodyboarding, kitesurfing, sailing, diving and recreational fishing;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Commission, the Council and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.