

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1253/03  
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to the Council

Subject: Crisis in the European tourist industry

At the end of 2002 the possibility of an armed conflict in Iraq put a freeze on the reserves for summer 2003 and this brought to a halt the tentative recovery which the tourist industry had been experiencing since the middle of 2002. The outbreak of war in Iraq has only made matters worse.

This state of uncertainty may have a damaging effect on the European tourist industry and, consequently, on the EU's economy.

Has the Council done anything to alleviate this state of affairs and if so, what? If not, does the Council, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity, believe that it would be appropriate to implement a common tourist policy so that structural and coordinating measures for an industry subject to the impact of European-level developments can be promoted at EU level?