

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1826/09
by Margaritis Schinas (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Decline in tourism in the EU

According to recently published Eurostat statistics, overnight stays by tourists in European countries whose economies are based on tourism fell significantly in 2008. For instance, tourism fell in Greece by 4.6%, in Cyprus by 4.8% and in the Netherlands by 4.1%.

Is the Commission aware of these statistics?

Given the enormous importance of tourism as a factor of economic development in EU Member States, what measures does the Commission intend to take to boost tourism, especially in view of the economic crisis, and how does it view the possibility of supporting tourism by proactive intervention measures?