

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3081/09
by Maria Eleni Koppa (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: UNEP initiative to create a Green Passport

- On the occasion of UNEP's initiative to create a green passport, i.e. guidelines to encourage consumers of tourist products to reduce their environmental footprint when they purchase tourist products;
 - Given that, according to a UNEP survey, the tourist industry is responsible for 5% of global greenhouse gas emissions (in other words, 200 million consumers are responsible for an environmental footprint equivalent to that of a country with a population of 800 million inhabitants);
 - Given that the EU is one of the world's major markets for tourist products;
1. How does the Commission intend to use UNEP's initiative to promote green and sustainable development in the tourism sector: by a policy of labelling and certifying 'green' tourist products, awarding prizes for innovation in providing 'green services', translating and disseminating the Green Passport platform, etc.?
 2. Given the EU's ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gases, has any provision been made for policies to promote other models of consumer behaviour in tourism, or are alternative sources of energy production our sole objective?