

**Question for written answer E-011707/2011
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Hubert Pirker (PPE)

Subject: The staggering of holiday periods in Europe

In its Communication of 30 June 2010 entitled 'Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe'(COM(2010)0352 final), the Commission set out a comprehensive list of 'actions' to speed up the development of a European strategy for the tourist industry.

Action 7 covers the staggering of holiday periods in Europe and proposes developing 'a voluntary online information exchange mechanism to improve the coordination of school holidays in the Member States, without prejudice to their cultural traditions'.

Initiatives in this area are immensely important not only for economic and commercial reasons, but also in a number of other respects. Practical action is required, in particular, to address traffic congestion and the resulting environmental problems, particularly in transit countries.

1. Has the Commission already begun setting up the information platform?
2. Does the Commission also plan to conduct an EU-wide survey of all the arrangements currently in force?
3. What further initiatives is the Commission considering? Is there any cooperation on this subject between the Directorates-General variously responsible for Enterprise and Industry, the Environment, and Mobility and Transport?