

**Question for written answer E-002823/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Nuno Teixeira (PPE), Spyros Danellis (S&D), Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Dominique Vlasto (PPE), Luis de Grandes Pascual (PPE), Carlo Fidanza (PPE), Jim Higgins (PPE) and Giommara Uggias (ALDE)

Subject: EU tourism management crisis group

The EU's tourism industry generates around 5 % of the Union's total GDP, accounting for some 5.2 % of the total labour force; if tourism-related services are also taken into account, the figures become more than 10 % of GDP and 12 % of the workforce, respectively.

In some European regions, tourism is the main economic activity, and the fallout from a natural disaster or other hazard can prove impossible for the local economies and the Member State concerned to bear, not only in view of the reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts but also because of the fall in income from tourism, given that the media inevitably tend to distort the real situation, with huge consequences for the destination's image.

The economic and monetary crisis is creating stagnation and in some cases recession in tourist activity in some regions in the EU.

The Treaty of Lisbon has conferred new shared competences on the Union, such as the promotion of actions or instruments capable of creating European added value through the development of transnational strategies, by means of the exchange of best practice and the availability and analysis of data.

The beneficiaries of the COSME (Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) programme include SMEs in the tourism sector, with EUR 131 million out of its total budget of EUR 2.5 billion for the period 2014-2020 being allocated to tourism.

1. In view of the shared competences conferred by the Treaty of Lisbon, is the Commission considering setting up a small group and/or body to manage post-disaster crisis situations and provide tourism-related assistance to the media and to operators, with the aim of diminishing the negative effects of the relaying of misleading information which can destroy a destination's image?
2. If so, on what basis might such a small group and/or body be developed?