

**Question for written answer E-004375/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**David McAllister (PPE)**

Subject: EU support for the tourist industry over the period from 2021 to 2027

In many parts of Europe, and in northern Germany in particular, tourism is a key economic factor. In some regions it accounts for more than 20% of local GDP and generates business for many firms. It thus safeguards employment and livelihoods. As a part of the services sector, the tourist industry is labour intensive, with little room for rationalisation. What is more, the fact that it is location-specific means that jobs in the industry cannot be relocated abroad. It thus offers good employment prospects and is a safe recipient of public funding. Although the current operational programmes carried out under the European Regional Development Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development offer scope for providing support for tourism-related initiatives, unlike in the 2007-2013 period tourism is no longer an investment priority. Without funding for key infrastructure measures, however, the competitiveness of tourist destinations cannot be guaranteed and important private follow-up investment, for example in catering establishments, hotels and leisure facilities, will be lost.

1. Is the Commission once again planning to provide comprehensive support for tourist industry under the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the period 2021 to 2027?
2. Will provision be made for support for tourism-related infrastructure?
3. Will the Commission take steps to cut the amount of red tape involved in obtaining funding?