

Question for written answer E-001196/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Support for the Italian tourism sector hit by anti-coronavirus measures

The crisis unfolding as the coronavirus (Codiv-19) spreads is inflicting considerable economic damage on Italy's tourism industry and tarnishing the country's global reputation, with earnings from tourism estimated to fall by over EUR 5 billion.

In light of recent developments, more and more European and non-European countries are advising against travel and school trips to Italy, with the result that thousands of holidays in the coming weeks have been cancelled, bookings for the second half of 2020 are down, and many events and conferences – some international in nature – have been postponed indefinitely.

The hardest-hit Italian regions are suffering the economic consequences as the panic over the coronavirus continues. For example, Venice has already seen arrivals fall by 971 000 and overnight stays by over 3 million, while tourist spending has shrunk by some EUR 955 million.

Given that the EU has the power to support, coordinate and complement action taken by the Member States to promote tourism, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it create a dedicated budget line for tourism in MFF 2021-2027 and so increase funding for the EU's third largest industry?
2. What exceptional economic measures does it intend to introduce to support the Italian tourism establishments suffering as a result of the restrictive measures taken?