

**Question for written answer E-002547/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: New European tourism programme and ad hoc funds

As the third most important economic sector in the EU, tourism has a major impact on economic growth, social development and employment throughout the continent.

The sector currently employs 27 million people (including direct and indirect workers) and involves over 3 million companies.

Tourism's contribution to the economy as a whole amounts to around 11% of the EU's GDP, in view of its role in other key sectors such as culture, agri-food, construction and transport.

Even though tourism has had its own legal basis in the EU Treaties since December 2009 (Articles 6(d) and 195 TFEU), it still does not have its own separate budget under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

In the 2014-2020 period, in order to ensure adequate support for the sector, many EU programmes have also been targeted at tourism. However, the current COVID-19 pandemic now calls for bold new choices to protect one of the sectors most affected by the continuing emergency.

In light of the above, can the Commission say whether:

1. it intends to set up a specific programme for tourism under MFF 2021-2027;
2. it will make provision for a specific tourism budget line in the MFF 2021-2027 and in the upcoming recovery fund;
3. it will take any extraordinary measures, under the current budget, to provide some relief and support for those working in the tourism sector?