

**Question for written answer E-004158/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tomislav Sokol (PPE)

Subject: Cultural tourism during COVID-19

Europe is one of the world's top tourist destinations owing to its cultural heritage, boasting historic cities, archaeological sites, industrial sites, interpretive centres, gastronomy and music. In fact, as a unique brand of European tourism, cultural tourism is what attracts international visitors from outside Europe. According to some estimates, cultural tourism accounts for 40% of all European tourism, and 4 out of 10 tourists choose their destination based on its cultural offer. The COVID-19 outbreak has had a severe impact on cultural tourism, resulting in as many as 89% of the world's countries closing their UNESCO World Heritage sites. The fallout from the crisis can be seen first and foremost in its social and economic effects, which have significantly encroached on the social rights of artists and creative professionals, the right of access to culture, and the protection of the diversity of cultural expression. Given that this crisis has the potential to expand and deepen the social, territorial and economic disparities among certain regions:

1. What are the Commission's plans to address the economic, territorial and social disparities in affected areas where cultural tourism is prevalent?
2. What are the Commission's future plans for kick-starting tourism in general, and what steps is it taking to drive a move towards a more participatory, inclusive and equitable tourism model for the European Union focused on climate goals, social inclusion, reducing inequalities, sustainability and resilience?