ORAL QUESTION H-0341/06 for Question Time at the part-session in May 2006 pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure by Antonio López-Istúriz White to the Commission

Subject: Possible EU coordination of the new structural instruments and a regional strategy for sustainable tourism

Given that tourism is a real factor in regional development and diversification, and makes a fundamental contribution to growth, employment and new communications and information technology, and for that reason addresses the heart of the Lisbon strategy,

Could the Commission explain how it intends to coordinate the new structural policy instruments for 2007-2013 in such a way as to provide for an integrated approach to tourism which would allow the coordination of the involvement of the various instruments so as to launch a genuine regional strategy for sustainable tourism?

Does the Commission intend to include any provision whereby those Member States with large-scale tourist industries can lay down measures within the framework of their national strategies and their operating programmes which would allow the regions - and particularly island regions - to implement and fund projects consistent with the development of sustainable tourism appropriate to local conditions and local potential?

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