

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0027/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Luciano Caveri, on behalf of the Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism
to the Commission

Subject: Tourism

Tourism represents over 10% of GDP, is one of the major industries as far as employment is concerned and figures among those with better perspectives for the coming years.

The war in Iraq is having a very negative impact on international tourism.

In this situation coordinated action to boost the industry when the war is over would be highly desirable and the EC could take the lead.

In this context, business impact assessment is important in order to evaluate the consequences for tourism of various measures taken or proposed by the EU in affiliated policy areas.

To help the DG for Enterprise and Trade carry out this task, it is important that tourism be specifically mentioned in the Treaty, as is now the case.

1. Is the Commission prepared to take the initiative for coordinated action by all stakeholders to stimulate the tourism industry?
2. Is the Commission prepared to exert power and influence to have tourism included in the text of the future Treaty of the European Union currently being drafted by the Convention? Will it moreover ensure that there will be a legal basis for Community action in this field, as there is now for industry in general, with due regard being paid to the principle of subsidiarity?
3. What legal measures does the EU Commission intend to propose during 2003 which will affect the tourism industry?

Tabled: 14.04.2003

Forwarded: 16.04.2003

Deadline for reply: 23.04.2003