



2021/2188(INI)

21.10.2021

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

for the Committee on Fisheries

toward a sustainable blue economy in the EU: the role of the fisheries and
aquaculture sectors
(2021/2188(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Roman Haider

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism calls on the Committee on Fisheries, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- having regard to the Commission communication of 17 May 2021 on a new approach for a sustainable blue economy in the EU – transforming the EU’s Blue Economy for a Sustainable Future (COM(2021)0240),
 - A. whereas the EU’s blue economy is a broad and fast-moving industry that has taken significant steps over the past decade to modernise and diversify itself, while providing 4.5 million direct jobs in sectors based in the marine environment and on land;
 - B. whereas maritime and coastal tourism constitute a pillar of the blue economy, with over half of the EU’s tourist accommodation located in coastal areas and 30 % of overnight stays occurring at beach resorts;
 - 1. Supports the principle of sustainable development within the blue economy as a driver of economic growth in the EU, in particular in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas, as a way to foster a number of sectors such as maritime transport, shipbuilding, biotechnology, sustainable tourism, offshore wind, fishing and aquaculture, and wave and tidal energy;
 - 2. Calls on the Commission to promote the establishment of maritime transport partnerships with the private sector in order to improve innovation and strengthen competitiveness;
 - 3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to complete priority projects within the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), in particular projects involving the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and cross-border areas, while promoting the full development of the TEN-T motorways of the sea and the connection of islands to the mainland;
 - 4. Highlights that fostering the blue economy is key to reviving the economy as a whole and restoring the social aspects of several sectors severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - 5. Calls on the Commission to include sustainable maritime and coastal tourism in all related action plans and programmes and to encourage the diversification of this kind of tourism, while helping to boost tourism activities and increase employment all year round.