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R E P O R T

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the implementation of a multiannual programme (1991-1993) for developing Community tourism statistics
(COM(90) 211 final - C3-0177/90)

Rapporteur: Mr Hans-Günter SCHODRUCH

* = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

**II = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment

**I = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

*** = Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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By letter of 14 June 1990, the President of the Council of the European Communities consulted the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 213 of the EEC Treaty, on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the implementation of a multiannual programme (1991-1993) for developing tourism statistics (COM(90) 211 final - C3-0177/90).

At the sitting of 19 June 1990, the President of Parliament announced that he had referred the proposal to the Committee on Transport and Tourism as the committee responsible and to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Budgets for their opinions.

At its meeting of 16 to 18 July 1990 the Committee on Transport and Tourism appointed Mr Schodruch rapporteur.

At its meeting of 26 to 28 September 1990 it considered the Commission proposal and report.

At the latter meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution by 11 votes to 0 with 1 abstention.

The following were present for the vote: Amaral, chairman; Schodruch, rapporteur; Bettini (for Fernex), Cornelissen (for Sarlis), Joanny, Lüttge, McMillan-Scott, Romera I Alcàzar, Schlechter, B. Simpson, Tauran, Visser and van der Waal.

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection decided not to deliver an opinion. The opinion of the Committee on Budgets is attached.

The report was tabled on 12 November 1990.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda at which the report is to be considered.

A

Commission proposal for a Council decision on the implementation of a multiannual programme (1991-1993) for developing Community tourism statistics

Commission text¹

Amendments

(Amendment No. 1)

Third recital

Whereas completion of the single market heightens the need for reliable, rapid and comparable data based on Community criteria;

Whereas completion of the single market, of which the tourist sector is a vital component, heightens the need for reliable, rapid and comparable data based on Community criteria;

(Amendment No. 2)

After the seventh recital, new recital

Whereas a coherent Community system guaranteeing the quality of statistical information should also coordinate the administrative units of DG I, DG VII and DG XXIII which are responsible for tourism-related matters in the Member States;

¹ For full text see COM(90) 211 final - OJ No. C 150, 19.6.1990, p. 4

(Amendment No. 3)

Article 3

With a view to achieving the objective referred to in Article 2, the following work shall be carried out in line with the action plan set out in the Annex:

The Commission shall:

- (a) analyse and evaluate users' needs with regard to tourism statistics;
- (b) analyse existing systems in the Member States;
- (c) prepare a Community methodological framework for statistics on tourism;
- (d) collect and disseminate existing data on tourism.

With a view to achieving the objective referred to in Article 2, the following work shall be carried out in line with the action plan set out in the Annex:

The Commission shall:

- (a) analyse and evaluate users' needs with regard to tourism statistics;
- (b) analyse existing systems in the Member States;
- (c) prepare a Community methodological framework for statistics on tourism that provides a homogeneous summary of the results obtained;
- (d) collect and disseminate existing data on tourism;
- (e) carry out surveys.
- (f) make provision for initiatives aimed at obtaining information on the conditions in which companies in the tourist sector operate and improving and organizing Community tourism statistics so as to harmonize and coordinate national programmes;
- (g) promote the development of an information network for alternative short-term and short-distance tourism on a regional and subregional scale;
- (h) promote the collection of information on agri-tourism.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 4)

Article 3a (new)

The Commission shall promote cooperation between private and public sectors in regard to the collection and dissemination of statistics on tourism.

(Amendment No. 5)

Article 6

The Commission shall present to the Council by the end of 1992:

- (a) a report evaluating the outcome of the work referred to in Article 3;
- (b) the conclusions prompted by the report as to the development of the information system required for Community tourism statistics after 1992.

The Commission shall present to the Council by the end of 1992:

- (a) a report evaluating the outcome of the work referred to in Article 3;
- (b) a proposal for a directive on a harmonized system of Community tourism statistics.

(Amendment No. 6)

Article 7

1. The sum of the appropriations allocated annually for this task is fixed in the framework of the annual budgetary procedures.

2. The budgetary authority shall determine the appropriations available for each year.

1. The sum of the appropriations allocated annually for this task shall be fixed in the framework of the annual budgetary procedures but should not be less than ECU 1 million per annum to cover the Community's share of the cost of the action programme.

2. The Commission will endeavour to ensure that at least an equivalent amount is made available by businesses and associations which will benefit from the programme.

3. The budgetary authority shall determine the appropriations available for each year.

Commission text

Amendments

(Amendment No. 6)

ANNEX

STATISTICAL ACTION PLAN

1991-1993

Add a new subparagraph (e)

(3) Carry out surveys

To improve knowledge of this important economic sector, surveys will be conducted both in regard to households in order to obtain the information necessary to establish reliable data on tourism demand and to businesses in order to establish the nature and level of supply of tourism services. These surveys will provide information on a regionalized basis.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament
on the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the
implementation of a multiannual programme (1991-1993)
for developing Community tourism statistics

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission to the Council (COM(90) 211 final)¹,
 - having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 213 of the EEC Treaty (C 3-0177/90),
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (A3-0299/90),
1. Approves the Commission proposal subject to Parliament's amendments and in accordance with the vote thereon;
 2. Calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly, pursuant to Article 149(3) of the EEC Treaty;
 3. Calls on the Council to notify Parliament should it intend to depart from the text approved by Parliament;
 4. Asks to be consulted again should the Council intend to make substantial modifications to the Commission proposal;
 5. Instructs its President to forward this opinion to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ No. C 150, 19.6.1990, p. 4

EXPLANATORY STATEMENTI. INTRODUCTION

1. The importance of tourism to the Community is sufficiently well known. It is one of the Community's largest industries, accounting for 5.5% of total gross domestic product (GDP) and directly employing 7.5 m people in the Community, i.e. 6% of the workforce (not to mention the considerably higher level of indirect employment). As the main holiday and leisure time activity of many millions of Community citizens, the tourist sector accounts for 8% of private consumption.

In addition to its economic importance, tourism makes a substantial contribution to mutual awareness and understanding among the citizens of the Member States; in view of the fact that over 180 m Community citizens spend their annual holidays away from their normal place of residence, it is clear that tourism is of major significance as a means of affirming the multiple facets of European culture and increasing public awareness of them.

2. It is therefore essential to implement a Community policy for the sector, in line with the calls for action made by Parliament in (among others) its resolutions of 16 December 1983 on Community policy on tourism² and of 22 January 1988 on the facilitation, promotion and funding of tourism in the European Community³. This is particularly necessary given that tourism is a vital component in the completion of the internal market and the achievement of a citizens' Europe.

3. It is not the aim of the present report, however, in any way to define the framework or the criteria for a Community tourism policy, especially as reports on the matter are currently being drawn up both by the Committee on Transport and Tourism and by other parliamentary committees.

II. THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY TOURISM STATISTICS

4. The rapporteur's aim is to analyse a proposal by the Commission concerning Community tourism statistics.

5. Obviously, any Community policy to be implemented in this area - as in any other - must be based on solid knowledge of the field concerned; it is therefore an essential precondition that reliable Community statistics should be available. The Commission had already, in 1986,⁴ referred to the need for harmonization in the field of tourism statistics, stressing that there were numerous gaps in the statistics then available at Community level, as well as varying definitions and divergences in data collection methods; this situation created considerable difficulties in comparison between Member States.

² OJ No. C 10, 16.1.1984, p.281

³ OJ No. C 49, 22.2.1988, p.157

⁴ See COM(86) 32: Community action in the field of tourism (Communication from the Commission to the Council)

6. The rapporteur is aware that in a service sector such as tourism the adaptation and development of a methodological basis for the collection and analysis of statistical data is bound to raise certain problems (in contrast, for instance, with the production of material goods); however, he considers it unfortunate that the Commission should only now have submitted a proposal, especially as its communication of 5 February 1986⁵ contained a statement of intention to submit, as soon as possible, a proposal on the harmonization of Community tourism statistics.

7. In 1988, following a series of consultations with the statistical services of the Member States, Eurostat submitted to the Commission a proposal for a statistical action programme involving expenditure of 9 m ECU. However, this proposal was not implemented by the Commission; this appears to confirm the low priority attributed to tourism by the Commission, despite its being one of the largest Community industries.

8. If a Community tourism statistics information system is set up, it should be able to deal not only with requests from the services of the Community institutions (especially the Commission) but also with those from national governments and private-sector tourism-related economic operators in the Member States. With this in view, any such system must be in a position to consider tourism in the context of the European economy as a whole, both macroeconomically (with respect to value added, public and private investment, employment, international tourist and currency movements, etc.) and microeconomically and sectorially (with reference to structures, activities, prices, circumstantial factors, regional aspects, tourism and transport, etc.).

To be effective and useful as an instrument of policy-making, tourism statistics should include flows between regions of the Community and not just Member States: they should also seek to establish the importance of non-traditional forms of accommodation and of long-term tourism, including retirement migration, which have not been included in national tourism statistics in the past.

III. THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

9. The proposal under consideration (COM(90) 211 final) institutes an action plan for a multiannual programme (1991-1993) for developing Community tourism statistics, with a view to the 'definition and implementation of a Community frame of reference for Community statistics on tourism, by the approximation of the concepts and methods already used by the Member States' (Article 2).

This action plan, to be carried out by the Commission, is to include (as specified in Article 3):

- (a) analysis and evaluation of users' needs;
- (b) analysis of existing systems in the Member States;

⁵ See footnote 4

(c) preparation of a Community methodological framework for statistics on tourism;

(d) collection and dissemination of existing data.

10. Article 6 stipulates that the Commission shall present to the Council, before the end of 1992, a report evaluating the outcome of the actions under the programme together with proposals for the development of an information system for Community tourism statistics after 1992.

11. The financial statement provides for expenditure of 1 m ECU on the provision of services (by consultants and experts) over the three years of the programme.

IV. COMMENTARY

12. The rapporteur realizes that, as things stand at present, it is virtually impossible to conduct a comparative study of tourism at Community level, since this would require, as an indispensable precondition, the harmonization of the existing data and statistics. He also regrets the delay in launching the programme, in view of the vital importance of tourism for the completion of the single market (see Amendment No. 1).

13. An essential action which is not included in Article 3 of the Commission proposal is to carry out surveys. The information required to assess the importance of tourism to national and regional economies and even to establish the basis for a Community tourism policy can only be obtained through surveys.

14. Surveys are relatively expensive, and Member States will have to be reimbursed part of the cost of such surveys at least until the procedure for collecting the information is well established. Given the relatively high cost of an action programme which is capable of providing the essential information, every opportunity should be taken of spreading the cost between the Community budget and private sector bodies.

15. It is essential that practical results should come of this proposal. The Commission should therefore, by 31 December 1992, propose a directive (and not merely 'guidelines') on a harmonized system of Community tourism statistics; with this in mind, the rapporteur has tabled Amendment No. 5.

16. Finally, in view of the foregoing, it must be concluded that the proposed sum of 1 m ECU falls far short of the amount required to implement this programme.

After a number of consultations, the rapporteur has concluded that it is both necessary and possible that the above sum should be at least trebled to 3 m ECU for the three-year period (i.e. 1 m ECU per annum), and has consequently tabled Amendment No. 6 to this end.

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr AMARAL, chairman of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

Subject: Opinion on the proposal for a Council decision on the implementation of a multiannual programme (1991-1993) for developing Community tourism statistics
(COM(90) 211 final - C3-0177/90)

Dear Mr Amaral,

At its meeting of 7 November 1990 the Committee on Budgets considered the above proposal.

The committee noted that the implementation of this programme would entail expenditure of some 1 m ECU.

The committee concluded, in the light of its positions with regard to Council Decision 89/382/EEC/Euratom of 19 June 1989, especially in respect of the transparent management of the appropriations, and its decisions relating to the mini-budgets at the first reading of the 1991 draft budget, that expenditure in respect of this programme should be entered under item B-5602 ('Action in the field of statistics'), and, in addition, that this expenditure calls for a mini-budget.

The Committee on Budgets delivered a favourable opinion, subject to the above two remarks.

Yours sincerely,

(sgd) Thomas von der VRING

The following were present for the vote: von der Vring, chairman; Arias Cañete, Goedmakers, Langes, Lo Giudice, Kellett-Bowman, Marques Mendes, Miranda Da Silva, Theato and Wynn