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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
No. prev. doc.:	12678/22
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on 'European Agenda for Tourism 2030'

Delegations will find attached a Presidency text on the *draft Council conclusions on European Agenda for Tourism 2030*, with a view to the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Tourism) meeting on 13 October 2022.

Changes in relation to the previous version (12678/22) are indicated as follows: new text is in **bold and underlined** and deletions are in ~~striketrough~~.

Draft Council Conclusions on ‘European Agenda for Tourism 2030’

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. ~~REAFFIRMING~~ **HAVING REGARD to** Article 195 ~~of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and~~ **RECALLING and** Article 6 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as regards the EU supporting, coordinating and supplementing the actions of Member States in the area of tourism, and with due regard to the respective spheres of competence of the Member States and the Union, as well as the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.
2. RECALLING
 - its Conclusions on ‘The competitiveness of the tourism sector as a driver for sustainable growth, jobs and social cohesion in the EU for the next decade’ of 27 May 2019¹;
 - its Conclusions on ‘Tourism in Europe for the next decade: sustainable, resilient, digital, global and social’ of 27 May 2021², where the Council invited the Commission and Member States, in participation with relevant stakeholders, to design a European Agenda for Tourism 2030/2050;³
 - **its Conclusions on the ‘Special Report No 27/2021 by the European Court of Auditors: EU Support to tourism: Need for a fresh strategic orientation and a better funding approach’ of 3 March 2022³.**
3. UNDERLINES its determination to promote sustainable tourism, considering all the key dimensions of economic, environmental, cultural and social sustainability, **among others also in response to the climate change and the loss of biodiversity,** in accordance with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its commitment to support tourism that creates sustainable jobs and promotes local culture, products and services.

¹ 9707/19.

² 8881/21.

³ **6829/22.**

4. ACKNOWLEDGES that tourism significantly contributes to economic development across Europe and can aid with achieving the objectives of various EU, national, regional and local policies thanks to its cross-cutting economic and social dimension and the high ratio of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises operating directly or indirectly along the tourism value chain-; **IS AWARE that various EU policy areas often impact the tourism ecosystem due to its cross-sectoral nature.**
5. WELCOMES the outcome of the co-creation process with Member States and the stakeholders led by the Commission under the Transition Pathway for Tourism⁴ as a follow-up to the Communication from the Commission on ‘Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy. Building a stronger Single Market for Europe’s Recovery’⁵, which helped to identify possible topics, actions, key actors, conditions and objectives for the green and digital transition of tourism towards a more resilient ecosystem.
6. RECOGNISES the work of the Commission, Member States and stakeholders to build the basis for the European Agenda for Tourism 2030 through the co-creation process; in this respect ACKNOWLEDGES that the co-implementation process, as part of the Transition Pathway for Tourism, is a good starting point for strengthening cooperation among tourism stakeholders, the Commission and the Member States.
7. STRESSES the importance of promoting a sustainable, innovative and resilient tourism ecosystem given that:
- the EU is a top destination for both international visitors and its own residents;
 - in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU tourism ecosystem represented 12.9 % of EU Gross Value Added and 15.8 % of employment;
 - with the pandemic, revenues of some sub-sectors dropped by up to 80% of net value and around 11 million jobs in the EU have already been impacted in the tourism ecosystem in 2020;

⁴ 10089/21.

⁵ 8553/21.

- the tourism ecosystem is composed of several economic sectors, which have their own specific sectoral approaches, where over 99 % are micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

~~the EU is a top destination for both international visitors and its own residents.~~

Impact of recent crises on tourism

8. UNDERSCORES that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a particularly devastating effect on the tourism ecosystem and led to a significant loss of income, employment and staff.
9. EMPHASISES that re-opening and re-starting the tourism ecosystem provides an opportunity to leverage the COVID-19 recovery phase for a green and digital transformation towards a more resilient tourism ecosystem.
10. CONDEMNS Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine, and REGRETS **its economic, political and humanitarian effects, including** its negative impact on tourism, among other sectors, particularly in countries close to Ukraine; ~~in this respect, ACKNOWLEDGES their continuous efforts to resume their tourism activities in a climate of uncertainty related to the military aggression.~~
11. RECOGNISES that despite the continuing insecurity, the tourism ecosystem has shown solidarity towards refugees from Ukraine, **for example** by providing temporary accommodation for relocated citizens, ~~and by supporting their integration and~~ **or** offering them jobs.

~~[Nota bene: paragraphs 11 and 13 have been interchanged]~~

12. IS CONCERNED that **insecurity related to the military aggression of Ukraine,** high inflation, rising prices on energy and food products and disruptions of supply chains heavily burden the provision and affordability of travel and hospitality services.
13. POINTS OUT that ~~across all Member States,~~ limitations on travel have a serious effect on the operations and prices of passenger transport **across all Member States, including, but not limited,** ~~companies and a particular impact on long-haul flights and cruises.~~

Future vision

14. STRESSES that the tourism ecosystem is subject to unprecedented conditions that are evolving quickly and affecting its traditional business models.
15. EMPHASISES the need to bring more transparency into relations between hosts, online platforms and public bodies, so as to have reliable **and available** data on who rents out a short-term accommodation rental, ~~when and where~~.
16. UNDERLINES that the digital and green transitions of the tourism ecosystem, **whilst respecting the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality**, must be based on collaboration between stakeholders across sectors and different public and private actors at EU, national, regional and local levels.
17. TAKES INTO ACCOUNT that the COVID-19 pandemic and the energy crisis have increased recognition of sustainability objectives among EU citizens and globally, and INVITES the Commission, Member States and tourism stakeholders to make use of the readiness of many Europeans to change their travel and tourism habits in order to become more sustainable and responsible.
18. POINTS OUT that many businesses have proven able to quickly adjust and innovate their services **and products**, resources and target markets ~~and products~~ in exceptional circumstances; CONSIDERS that further increased ~~flexibility and~~ **labour** skills **and business flexibility** can be instruments for a more resilient and sustainable tourism ecosystem, ~~together with a more favourable business environment~~.
19. POINTS OUT that domestic and intra-EU tourism is important to build resilience for destinations, businesses and services.
20. INVITES Member States to:

- a) exchange knowledge and best practices for developing and implementing **tourism** strategies at various governance levels, taking account of the economic, environmental, **cultural** and social sustainability of tourism and including the perspective of visitors as well as local residents, organise awareness-raising activities, **among others on the benefits of the green and digital transformation, demand for sustainable offers, new skills needs and experimenting in tourism,** and provide for the protection of local culture, including tangible and intangible cultural heritage;
- b) help to build resilience ~~to~~ **of** the tourism ecosystem across sectors and different public and private actors;
- c) contribute to the green transition of the tourism ecosystem regarding:
 - i. transport, e.g. by supporting the decarbonisation of mobility, through innovations, ~~and new~~ **and breakthrough** technologies, the development of multimodal travel and improving the attractiveness of sustainable modes of transport for passengers, with particular regard of the needs of the peripheries, islands and outermost regions, and by promoting active mobility modes, such as cycling and hiking, and encouraging longer stays;
 - ii. more circular and sustainable operations of **tourism** establishments across the ~~tourism~~-ecosystem, including attractions, hospitality services, travel agents and tour operators;
 - iii. ~~all related sectors through~~ the use of relevant green public procurement criteria when procuring tourism-related services, such as events, hospitality or travel;
 - iv. d)**—create the conditions and incentive to improve the circularity of tourism services in line with EU-wide and national targets for food waste and waste separation, **including reduction of single use-plastic;**
 - v. e)**—support sustainable tourism with regard to water management, energy efficiency, ~~and~~ sanitation capacity **and the need to protect biodiversity;**

- d~~f~~**) facilitate the digital transition of tourism and support the tourism industry and **sustainable management of** destinations, in particular by:
- i. improving the availability of comprehensive online information on the tourism offer, including on sustainability, accessibility and target audiences;
 - ii. **in cooperation with the Commission,** continuing efforts aimed at digitalising travel documents ~~in order to accelerate border procedures for both EU and non-EU citizens~~ and operating the EU Digital COVID Certificate framework, **if needed and relevant,** ~~provided that holding a valid travel document remains an obligation for both EU and non-EU citizens;~~
 - iii. supporting the capacities and digital skills of tourism SMEs to ensure innovative tourism products, services and effective communication with their clients;
 - iv. providing the necessary data to the Commission on travel information, including for the Re-open **EU** platform;
- e~~g~~**) support the development and implementation of innovations in the tourism sector, research and innovation (R&I) projects and multi-disciplinary efforts to develop models and transferable practices for sustainable tourism;
- f~~h~~**) work on improving the availability **and volume** of statistics and interoperable data sharing at all levels relevant to the tourism ecosystem;
- g~~i~~**) support the development of the quality of education and skills needed by the tourism workforce, while respecting the principles of subsidiarity, and **striving for** fairness, equality and social inclusion in tourism jobs, with attention paid among others to attractiveness of quality employment in the tourism sector and the particular needs of seasonal workers;
- h~~j~~**) promote accessibility of tourism services to all groups with specific needs;
- i~~k~~**) in their policies, take into account the impact of tourism on the quality of life of local communities with regard to solidarity and responsible tourism;

j) foster the transition of the tourism ecosystem, including via ~~existing EU and national~~ **various means of financial** support, in line with national tourism strategies and the European Agenda for Tourism 2030;

~~km~~) engage in the implementation of the European Tourism Agenda 2030.

21. INVITES the Commission to:

- a) engage, together with Member States, destinations and other tourism stakeholders, in implementing the European Agenda for Tourism 2030, in particular through:
 - i. the co-implementation process ~~as part of~~ **within** the Transition Pathway for Tourism;
 - ii. the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation across relevant EU policy domains (e.g. transport, regional policy, environment, consumer protection **and culture and health**) to create a coherent and favourable policy environment for tourism;
 - iii. in cooperation with all relevant national and local stakeholders, the development and promotion of governance models for sustainable and diversified management of destinations through facilitating knowledge and best-practice exchange; and
 - iv. the establishment of platforms for studies, knowledge development, best-practice collection and exchange, to provide information on existing communities, networks, ongoing projects and their results, topical events, training and funding opportunities, etc.;
- b) provide user-friendly and regularly updated travel information in exceptional situations, including through the Re-open EU platform, ~~based on own input, contributions from Member States and other possible sources;~~
- c) propose a common EU regulatory framework for short-term accommodation rentals in order to enhance transparency in the short-term rental segment and availability of reliable data, which ~~is necessary~~ **contributes** to promoting ~~inge~~ a balanced tourism ecosystem;

c.a) ~~d)~~ review the passenger rights and package travel regulatory framework, to ensure its resilience to extensive travel disruptions, and also assess options for adequate protection of passengers and package travellers against the risk of a liquidity crisis;

- d) implement and, where relevant further develop, the EU Tourism Dashboard to support the follow-up of environmental, digital and socio-economic aspects of tourism;
- f) support dialogue and cooperation between public authorities and private EU tourism stakeholders at all levels;
- g) support SME digitalisation by collecting and sharing best practices on digital tools and practices for tourism;
- h) identify relevant financing opportunities for Member States and stakeholders through the existing EU budget and other sources to work towards the objectives recognised in this Agenda, including through the regular update of the ‘Guide on EU funding for tourism’;
- i) support awareness-raising activities for citizens and tourism stakeholders on the benefits of the green and digital transformation, consumers’ demand for sustainable offers, new skills development and innovative pilot projects in tourism, and ~~develop~~ **test** the use of environmental footprint methodologies for the tourism ecosystem;
- j) support capacity-building programmes and **various means of** assistance for SMEs to engage in environmentally friendly practices and schemes;
- k) cooperate with Member States to ensure the provision of tourism statistics **based on harmonised data**, that include elements and indicators on economic, social, **cultural** and environmental sustainability, in cooperation with European Statistical System actors;
- l) support Member States and tourism stakeholders in implementing interoperable data-sharing practices;

- m) support Member States and relevant stakeholders in tourism with its expertise and experience **and follow up the actions supporting the European Agenda for Tourism 2030 in the framework of the Transition Pathway for Tourism through annual feedback of experts from Member States**, ~~follow up the European Tourism Agenda 2030, including through the work in the Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC);~~
- n) follow up to the implementation of the European Tourism Agenda 2030** and report to the Council every ~~two~~ **three** years, ~~on its implementation and on the progress of the work of the Transition Pathway for Tourism.~~

22. INVITES tourism stakeholders to:

- a) engage in the implementation of this European Tourism Agenda 2030, in cooperation with the Commission and the Member States, and contribute with their expertise and experience to the co-implementation of the tourism transition;
- b) [where relevant, commit with concrete pledges, on voluntary basis, to the implementation of the Tourism Transition Pathway actions as their support for the Multi-annual EU Work Plan].

[Annex I: Multi-annual EU Work Plan]

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[This Multi-annual EU Work plan of the European Agenda for Tourism 2030 describes voluntary concrete actions for the Commission, Member States, regional and local authorities and other stakeholders in tourism ecosystem to take and encourage in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and within the remit of their competencies. The proposed actions and outputs provide strategic guidance for following the progress of the Agenda in five priority areas. If not otherwise mentioned, the target date for the outputs follows the scope and timeline of the European Agenda for Tourism 2030.]

[Priority area: Enabling policy framework and governance]

[Key topic]	Goals and objectives	Actions and responsibilities	Output / target date
Fair measures for short-term rentals (STR)	A transparent EU STR market, promoting competition and consumer protection, creating opportunities and contributing to sustainable tourism.	Member States and the Commission to strengthen the EU framework for short-term rentals to enhance transparency, make it fairer and improve market access. Member States to support regional and local authorities.	EU-level common framework for short-term rentals by 2025 at the latest.
Statistics and indicators for tourism	Improving the availability and coverage of tourism statistics to consider the economic, social, <u>cultural</u> and environmental impacts of tourism. Improving access to private and destination-level data for producing official statistics on tourism, respecting data protection rules and legitimate commercial interests.	European Statistical System actors to revise harmonised data collection rules on tourism statistics. Tourism industry, regional, local authorities and DMOs to consider developing data collection and sharing mechanisms that can also benefit official tourism statistics aggregation. The Commission to implement the EU Tourism Dashboard to support the follow-up of the environmental, digital and socio-economic aspects of tourism.	Revised EU framework for tourism statistics which includes indicators on the economic, environmental and social impacts of tourism by 2030. EU Tourism Dashboard publicly available and used by destinations and authorities, offering indicators on the green and digital transition and socio-economic resilience at national, and regional <u>and local</u> levels.
Comprehensive tourism strategies development or update	Strategic approach to tourism at national, regional and local levels to consider the economic, environmental, <u>cultural</u> and social sustainability of tourism.	The Commission and Member States to facilitate knowledge and best practice sharing.	Best practice exchange. All Member States or their key tourism regions to have <u>examples of</u> comprehensive tourism strategies by 2025.

Collaborative and data-based destination management	Expanding the scope of tourism destination management organisations to collaborative and data-based decision-making involving all stakeholders, <u>including local residents</u> .	The Commission to provide awards for smart and sustainable destination management. The Commission and Member States to support destinations in developing their <u>local</u> governance models.	Smart tourism capital/EDEN Destination awards. Study <u>by the Commission</u> on DMO governance models in the EU; community of practice and toolbox for destination management by 2023.
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Priority area: Green transition

Key topic	Goals and objectives	Actions and responsibilities	Output / target date
Improving circularity of tourism services	Reducing the environmental footprint of tourism services (food/general waste, water/energy efficiency and pollution).	The Commission and Member States to support tourism services establish objectives to reduce their environmental footprint in line with the EU objectives of tourism services and support sustainable tourism and support the improvement of with regard to water management and sanitation capacity.	Tourism/hospitality organisations to have reduced food-waste in line with EU-wide targets by 2030; halved the amount of non-recycled waste by 2030 the Waste Directive 91/271/EEC.
Supporting the green transition of tourism companies and SMEs	Encouraging tourism companies to take up greener practices by increasing demand for green services by public actors and promoting schemes which support assessing, tracking and reducing environmental footprint. Providing support for SMEs to engage in environmentally friendly practices to ensure that it does not become a barrier for trade.	The Commission and Member States to use relevant EU green public procurement (GPP) criteria where applicable when procuring tourism-related services (events, hospitality, travel). The Commission, Member States and other relevant levels of public authorities regional authorities to support capacity building programmes, technical and financial assistance for SMEs to engage in environmentally friendly practices and schemes, such as EMAS, EU Ecolabel, other EN ISO 14024 type I ecolabels or equivalent third-party verified voluntary labels.	Increased use of relevant EU-GPP criteria in purchasing tourism ecosystem services; increased number of EMAS-registered tourism organisations by 2030 ; increased number of EU Ecolabel tourism services or accommodation awarded with other EN ISO 14024 type I ecolabels or equivalent voluntary labels by 2030 .
Research and innovation projects and pilots on circular and climate-friendly sustainable tourism	Supporting public-private co-operation for research and innovation projects and pilots which develop models and transferable practices for sustainable tourism.	The Commission and Member States to support the development of models and transferable practices for sustainable tourism; DMOs and relevant levels of public authorities to support establishing large-scale pilots on sustainable tourism -, for example on islands and in outermost regions.	Validated and transferable circular and climate-friendly sustainable tourism models by 2030 ; best practices on destination pilots with holistic circular models by 2030 .

Priority area: Digital transition

Key topic	Goals and objectives	Actions and responsibilities	Output / target date
Digitalisation of tourism SMEs	Effective use of digital tools by tourism SMEs and microenterprises for resource management , internal work processes, service provision, marketing, communication with clients and supply chains and new service development.	The Commission, Member States, other relevant public authorities regional and local authorities and DMOs to raise awareness among tourism SMEs of the benefits of digitalisation and to support tourism SMEs and start-ups through digitalisation programmes; the Commission to collect and share best practices on digital tools and practices for tourism.	90% of EU Tourism SMEs to have reached a basic level of digital intensity by 2030 and to participate in the digital value chain in line with the Digital Compass objectives ; searchable collection on transferable digital tools and practices for tourism published by the Commission by 2023; European Enterprise Network advisory services to support tourism SMEs.
Public data sharing for encouraging innovative tourism services	Encouraging and participating in tourism-relevant data sharing to support innovative services.	National, regional and local authorities and DMOs to publish open datasets of relevance for tourism services - data on public transport, museum collections and visitors, etc.	Examples of Open open public datasets in all significant tourism regions by 2025 that can be used for developing tourism-related services.
Research and innovation projects and pilots on digital tools and services in tourism	Supporting public-private co-operation for research and innovation projects and pilots that develop the innovative and sustainable use of digital tools and practices in tourism.	The Commission, Member States and other relevant public authorities regional authorities to support data-driven sustainable destination management development. The Commission and Member States to support innovative tourism services using advanced technologies (virtual/augmented reality, AI) and digital and digitised cultural heritage.	Best practices to monitor carrying capacity and well-being of local residents by 2025; examples of published innovative services and partnerships to provide tourism experiences through virtual, extended and augmented reality, big data and AI by 2025.

Priority area: Resilience and inclusion

Key topic	Goals and objectives	Actions and responsibilities	Output / target date
Accessibility of tourism services	Enhancing social <u>and economic</u> inclusion, taking into account the elderly, persons with disabilities and other groups with specific needs.	The Commission, Member States <u>other relevant public authorities</u> and DMOs to raise awareness of the importance of accessibility in tourism. <u>In view of improving accessibility of and creating favourable conditions for tourism services.</u>	Increased offer of accessible tourism services by 2025 .
Resilient EU tourism services and destinations	Improving the resilience of EU tourism services and destinations to service diverse audiences in all seasons.	The Commission and Member States <u>and other relevant public authorities</u> to provide financial and capacity-building <u>various</u> support for destinations, companies and start-ups to diversify tourism services, <u>particularly across seasons.</u>	More resilient services and destinations, which can better resist shocks.
Sustainable innovation in tourism services	Promoting the EU as a destination that meets the changing demands of tourism while maintaining the well-being of residents and their environment.	The Commission and Member States <u>and other relevant public authorities</u> to provide financial and capacity-building <u>various</u> support for companies, and start-ups <u>and local residents</u> to innovate sustainable and resilient tourism services, with a positive net impact for residents <u>and local way of life.</u>	Innovative tourism services to meet new types of tourism demands while respecting the long-term sustainability needs of the locality and its residents <u>and the environment.</u>

Priority area: Skills and support for transition

Key topic	Goals and objectives	Actions and responsibilities	Output / target date
Awareness-raising on needs and opportunities for the twin transition in tourism	Awareness-raising on changes in tourism demand, the opportunities of the twin transition for tourism actors as well as skills and approaches which help to increase resilience.	The Commission, Member States <u>and other relevant public authorities</u> and DMOs to organise awareness-raising activities for tourism stakeholders and support networking and best-practice sharing by award-winning cities in the EU on smart tourism, culture <u>and heritage</u> , sustainability, innovation, <u>and</u> accessibility <u>and heritage</u> .	Dissemination of tourism transition pathway in 2022; awareness-raising on <u>digital and green transition as well as resilience</u> sustainability schemes, best-practice exchange and promotion of events between award-winning cities.
Pact for skills in tourism	To meet the skills demand in the tourism ecosystem by implementing and expanding participation in the Pact for skills in tourism in order to actively encourage skills development and provide training opportunities for the workforce, the unemployed and SMEs.	The Commission, and the Member States <u>and other relevant public authorities</u> to facilitate and support establishing national, regional and local skills partnerships; the Commission to facilitate engaging tourism companies, education providers, trade unions and other organisations to commit to jointly agreed training targets for their workforce, <u>in line with the principles of subsidiarity</u> ; Member States to support skills partnerships to establish fast-track training courses, apprenticeship schemes and blended models for the unemployed and jobseekers.	Regional and national <u>local</u> skills partnerships to be established in <u>significant tourism regions</u> all Member States by 2023 4 . By 2030, 80 % of the tourism workforce to have participated in training <u>in line with the targets of the Pact for skills in tourism</u> .
Integrated support platform for tourism stakeholders	Helping tourism stakeholders find relevant and timely information, funding and support and connections to peers and experts.	The Commission to establish a stakeholder support platform for facilitating information-sharing, accessing resources and collaboration across tourism sectors and between actors. Member States, <u>and other relevant public</u> regional authorities and DMOs to inform their stakeholders and share <u>relevant</u> information on their relevant results, events and resources for European audiences through the platform <u>and other information channels</u> .	Stakeholder support platform to be launched by 2023 with regular information-sharing, collaboratively developed resources <u>content</u> and community activities to support progress on the Transition Pathway.