

EU Intelligence Report
November 2015



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Tourism Policy

[EP Civil Liberties Committee discusses Visa Package](#)

Employment Law/ Labour skills

[Commission and business leaders partner up to boost youth employment and inclusion in Europe](#)

[EP adopts report on Framework on Health and Safety at work](#)

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Tourism Policy

European Parliament's Civil Liberties Committee discusses Visa Package

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On the 19th November, the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) convened for a consideration of amendments of the draft report of rapporteur [Juan Fernando López Aguilar](#) (S&D, ES) on the Visa Code revision. In general, MEPs showed support for the Commission's legislative proposal and the approach of Mr López Aguilar in facilitating travel, although compromise will need to be found on issues such as multiple-entry visas, fees, travel medical insurance and consulates.

The Visa Code revision is important for the competitiveness of the EU tourism industry. The aim of the revision is to simplify the visa application procedure in order to increase the number of third-country tourists coming to Europe.

IAAPA Europe is supportive of changes to the Schengen visa because it will make the application process much simpler and make

Europe a more attractive destination. IAAPA has already co-endorsed a series of suggested amendments to the Parliament's report which reflect this, through a cooperation with the Network for the European private sector in Tourism (NET).

On 3rd December, the Parliament will vote on the dossier in plenary, then negotiations with the Council will probably start under the Dutch EU Presidency in January 2016.

ETC Study: Improving the Visa Regimes of European Nations to Grow Tourism

STAKEHOLDERS

The European Travel Commission (ETC) has published a [study](#) on the economic benefits of liberalising Europe's Schengen visa regime.

The report presents Europe's tourism challenge, the current visa regime and proposed improvements for the latter. It also explains the benefits of improvements and gives recommendations for action.

The report suggests that to reverse the current trends of declining tourism share, the only way for Europe is to open up even more to leisure tourists and other legitimate travelers.

The ETC recommends 6 actions, ranging from visa liberalisation for leisure and business travelers (through the easing of administrative burden for tourists) to extending the list of nations whose citizens can access Europe visa-free.

Taxation/VAT

European Parliament votes on tax rulings and fairer corporate taxes

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On the 25th November, the European Parliament's plenary adopted the non-binding [report](#) on "Tax rulings and other measures similar in nature or effect". The report urges several tax reform measures.

MEPs notably ask for a compulsory EU wide common consolidated corporate tax base (CCCTB), which should be introduced as soon as possible. This would be a single set of rules that companies operating within the EU could use to calculate their taxable profits.

The report also calls on the Commission to consider the establishment of a common framework at EU level for tax rulings, including common criteria.

Employment Law/ Labour Skills

EU Council adopts new EU Work Plan for Youth

COUNCIL

On the 23rd November, the Council meeting on “Education, youth, culture and sport” approved a resolution on a new EU Work Plan for Youth (2016-2018), which focuses on how to address more promptly and effectively the continuing high youth unemployment rates and the consequences of the crisis on young people.

The plan is flexible and structured, with a limited number of key initiatives with a precise timetable. Setting out six priorities, the Work Plan is intended as a practical tool to implement these objectives, which require reinforced cross-sectoral cooperation in the youth field. It also calls for the active involvement of youth ministries in national policy-making in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the European Semester.

The Work Plan may be reviewed by the Council in light of results achieved and policy developments at EU level.

EU Council adopts 2015 report on strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training

COUNCIL

On the 23rd November, the Council meeting on “Education, youth, culture and sport” adopted the 2015 Joint Report on the implementation of the Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (ET 2020) (2010-2020).

ET 2020 is a forum for exchanges of best practices and support for policy reforms. The report takes stock of progress during the most recent work cycle (2012-2014) and reviews the ET 2020 framework at its half-way stage, putting forward proposals for adjustment.

The main priorities for European cooperation in education and training for the 5 years up to 2020 are intended to ensure that education and training systems promote employability, skills and innovation, increase social mobility and equality, help to prevent radicalisation and lay the foundations for democratic values and active citizenship.

EU Commission and business leaders partner up to boost youth employment and inclusion in Europe

COMMISSION AND STAKEHOLDERS

During the [Enterprise 2020 Summit](#) on the 17th November, the European Commission together with companies launched the [European Pact for Youth](#), a mutual engagement of business leaders and the EU to developing or consolidating partnerships in support of youth employability and inclusion.

The Pact was initiated by The European Business Network for Corporate Social Responsibility ([CSR Europe](#)) and is open to all stakeholders willing to support its objectives.

The initiators intend to support the creation of 10,000 quality business-education partnerships to establish at least 100,000 new good quality apprenticeships, traineeships or entry-level jobs.

The Commission will provide technical support to the Pact and assist the participating stakeholders in its implementation. The outcomes of this joint work will be presented at the 1st Enterprise-Education Summit in December 2017.

European Parliament adopts report on Framework on Health and Safety at work

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On the 25th November, the European Parliament adopted the non-binding report on the EU strategic Framework on Health and Safety at work 2014-2020, by a large majority.

The results of the Commission consultation launched in 2013 suggested that a large majority of stakeholders considered it necessary to continue coordinating occupational health and safety policies at EU level. 75% of respondents advocated for an EU strategic Framework as appropriate tool.

The report stresses that addressing the challenges of health and safety in the workplace in Europe requires the application of legislative and non-legislative initiatives. Therefore, it enumerates additional concrete measures that should be included in the framework presented by the Commission in order to achieve the objective.

The adoption of the report has put an end to the legislative procedure. The Commission will ensure monitoring of the implementation

of the Framework, which should be reviewed in 2016 to take into account the results of its implementation, of the on-going evaluation of the EU occupational health and safety at work directives and of the review of the EU 2020 Strategy.

MEP Questions and Answers

[MEP question on the Commission and support for Tourism](#)

[Monika Flašíková Beňová MEP \(S&D\)](#) asked what the Commission was planning to focus on as it supports tourism in the short and medium term.

She stated that the European tourism industry has faced, in recent years, increasing competition from non-European countries that are often much cheaper. She also noted that tourism is vitally important for sustainable economic growth and for increasing employment rates, particularly among young people.

[MEP question on Tourism strategies for regional development](#)

[Claudia Tapardel MEP \(S&D\)](#) asked what was the Commission's strategy for combining tourism development with locally-adapted types of activities as part of broader regional economic development policies. She also wanted to know whether it was

possible to take advantage of tourism's growth potential to revitalise certain European regions in decline on a sustainable basis and to make a positive contribution to land use planning. Finally, she asked how this might be done, and what was the role the Commission.

[MEP question on EU support for tourism development](#)

[Rolandas Paksas MEP \(EFDD\)](#) asked the Commission what EU financial support was provided for the development and expansion of spa tourism and recreational areas. He also wanted to know which financial measures intended to promote competitiveness Member States could employ in order to attract investment in the development of regional spa tourism and recreational areas.

[European Commission's answer on Accessible and inclusive tourism](#)

In September, [Claudia Tapardel MEP \(S&D\)](#) asked the Commission if they were prepared to present a new strategy on accessible and inclusive tourism, and when. In addition, she asked how the Commission could encourage the Member States to strengthen the promotion of initiatives that favour the 'tourism for all' principle,

particularly as it concerns people with disabilities and the elderly.

The Commission answered that they had implemented the Preparatory Action "Tourism accessibility for all", which demonstrated how accessible tourism can be a driver for social inclusion, economic growth and job creation. This action has identified several gaps that prevent accessible tourism from being fully integrated into national and local tourism strategies and investments. Many of these gaps could be overcome by supporting the creation of an accessible tourism value chain. Only 9% of Europe's tourism services offer some level of accessibility. To be able to cater properly for the accessible tourism market, at least 3 million tourism businesses in accommodation, catering, transport, leisure and booking should be more accessible.

The Commission can support the Member States in these actions by continuing funding awareness raising campaigns, and projects. Some of these actions, financed under the Preparatory Action and the COSME programme, are ongoing or about to start. Once completed, their results will provide a clearer view of the way forward.

Alongside this, the Access City Award promotes and celebrates improvements on accessibility in all areas of urban life, including tourism, across the Member States.

Events

December

- 16 December: [European Tourism Day 2015](#), Brussels, Belgium

January

- 14 January 2016: [Sustainable Management and Accessible Tourism award ceremony](#), Brussels, Belgium
- 25 January 2016: [European Tourism Indicators System conference and Accessible Tourism workshop \(DG GROW\)](#), Brussels, Belgium