

EU Intelligence Report

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[European Parliament approves Juncker's Commission](#)

[IAAPA urges Member States to exclude parks from scope of new Package Travel Directive](#)

[IAAPA highlights the contribution of parks and attractions to the promotion of Europe as a tourist destination at the European Tourism Forum](#)

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Institutional change

European Parliament approves Juncker's Commission

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The new European Commission was approved by the European Parliament in a vote on 22 October 2014 (423 MEPs voted for the Commission, 209 against, 67 abstained). The EPP, S&D and ALDE groups voted for while the EFDD, Green and far left groups voted against. The ECR abstained. The new Commission will officially take office on 1 November 2014. ([press release](#)).

New Commissioner responsible for tourism policy outlines her priorities before the EP

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Heard by IMCO, ITRE, TRAN, ENVI and JURI Committees on 2 October, Polish commissioner-designate Ms. Elżbieta emphasized that her priority for her term will be to remove barriers to the Internal Market and simplify rules so that consumers and businesses can enjoy the benefits of a single trading bloc. During her hearing she focused on: SMEs, industrial policy, public procurement, the Services Directive and

reducing administrative burden for businesses. Please see [here](#) Ms Bieńkowska's CV and [here](#) her Q&A.

In relation to tourism Ms.Bieńkowska stated her intention to put together a new tourism strategy following consultation with all interested parties.

Tourism Policy

Network on Sustainable Tourism gather to share good practices

EDEN NETWORK

The network of European Destinations for Excellence (EDEN) met on 21 October 2014. Participants shared good practices to develop sustainable tourism and benefited from learning sessions on innovative communication channels.

The 9th EDEN Network meeting gathered over 100 participants representing EDEN winning destinations from 26 EU Member States and candidate countries, national EDEN project officers and EDEN Ambassadors.

The meeting focused on sharing best practices in developing sustainable tourism. The meeting provided also a learning session about collaborative economy/participative tourism with

speakers representing TripAdvisor, Greeter Network, European Best destinations

IAAPA highlights the contribution of parks and attractions to the promotion of Europe as a tourist destination at the European Tourism Forum

IAAPA

IAAPA Europe featured in a panel discussion at the [European Tourism Forum](#) in Naples (30-31 October). Karen Staley presented Amusement parks' role in raising profile and promoting Europe at a global scale and presented the efforts of the sector to increase international tourism flows. The panel was moderated by Eduardo Santander, Executive Director, European Travel Commission (ETC). Fellow panellists included Marcella Bagnasco from the European Federation of Tourist Guide Associations and Tim Fairhurst, Head of Strategy and Policy, European Tour Operators Association (ETOA)

Taxation

EC Study highlights losses due to VAT Gap

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 23 October the European Commission released a [study](#) on the VAT Gap, namely the data on the difference between the amount of VAT due and the amount actually collected in 26 Member States in 2012. According to the Study an estimated €177 billion in VAT revenues was lost due to non-compliance or non-collection in 2012.

The study is funded by the Commission as part of its work to reform the VAT system in Europe and clamp down on tax fraud and evasion. The documents is a follow-up to the "[Study](#) to quantify and analyze the VAT Gap in the EU-27 Member States", published in September 2013.

Consumer Issues

IAAPA urges Member States to exclude parks from scope of new Package Travel Directive

COUNCIL

Representatives from Europe's Member States met twice in October to discuss the Package Travel Directive (PTD). The Italian Presidency hopes to reach an agreement with Member States before the end of 2014. However, Member States are deeply divided on the scope of the legislation – defining who should have to comply with new rules –

and insolvency protection – how much they will need to pay. The Commission's proposal for a revised Package Travel Directive would mean that amusement parks selling a combination of park pass and hotel accommodation would find themselves within scope of new rules. This will require parks to comply with a separate set of consumer rules for these products creating additional administrative burden and the direct costs associated with insolvency protection.

IAAPA intends to circulate a position statement on the issue to national delegations ahead of the next meeting of the Council's working party on the 10th November.

Employment

Special Summit on Employment

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 8 October on the occasion of the special summit on employment in Milan European Commission President José Manuel Barroso urged national leaders to live up to their budget commitments to tackle unemployment, Barroso reiterated that the EU has made 1 trillion euros budget available to help fund practical and effective

ways to combat unemployment, through inter alia, Youth Guarantee, to which all Member States have signed up.

MEP Questions

MEP question on Subject: Competitiveness and sustainability of the EU tourism sector on the world market

On 17 October MEP Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE) tabled an EP [question](#) highlighting tourism as an important economic sector, enabling — as a labour-intensive activity — the employment of a wide range of young and low qualified people. The MEP expressed his concern that tourism has been neglected in the 2014-2020 programming period in comparison with the 2007-2013 period and asked the Commission what steps it is going to take to enhance EU tourism. The Commission will answer within 8 weeks.

Funding

European Commission publishes Tourism Funding Guide

European Commission

On 17 October the European Commission published a [guide](#) on tourism funding. The document is available to tourism stakeholders that can benefit from EU funding programmes, either directly, via co-financing of projects, or indirectly, via studies or research, surveys, etc. carried out by the Commission through calls for the tourism sector.

The guide will focus practical questions such as what type of tourism-related actions eligible for funding, type and level of funding, who can apply and how to apply

Erasmus+

COUNCIL/ EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Council adopted on 3rd December a regulation establishing "[ERASMUS+](#)" the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport for the period 2014-2020. It brings together in a single programme activities previously covered by a number of separate programmes (including the Lifelong Learning Programme, Erasmus Mundus and Youth in Action) and it also covers activities in the new area of European competence, sport.

The new programme has a total budget of about €14.7 billion which represents an increase of 40% compared to the precedent budget - and can also benefit for

Any additional funding from external action instruments (such as the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the Development Cooperation Instrument, the European Neighbourhood Instrument, as well as the European Development Fund).

Its main operational priorities are simplification of procedures and a performance-based allocation of funds, as well as closer links between the formal, informal and non-formal education and learning sectors.

New Calls for Proposal:

- [Call "Meeting between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth"](#)
- [Call "Strategic partnerships in the field of youth \(Deadline 04.2.2015\)"](#)
- [Call "Mobility of individuals in the field of youth"](#) (deadline 04.02.2015)

COSME - Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

For the period 2014-2020, the European Commission has published a proposal for a [Programme for the Competitiveness of](#)

[Enterprises and SMEs](#) (COSME) with a planned budget of € 2.5 billion.

The Programme has the following general objectives: 1) improve access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt; 2) improve access to markets inside the Union and globally through Enterprise Europe Network that will facilitate expansion of businesses beyond the borders; 3) promote entrepreneurship by developing entrepreneurial skills and attitudes, especially among new entrepreneurs, young people and women.

The Commission proposal includes a reference to specific objectives to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the tourism sector. The Commission intends to ensure coherence and consistency implementation, as well as informed policy-making at Union level. Benchmarking, the exchange of best practices and sectorial initiatives in particular will be encouraged. The main beneficiaries will include existing entrepreneurs (small businesses in particular), future entrepreneurs (including young people) as well as national, regional and local authorities. On this basis, eligible tourism partners could include: Accommodation providers, Transport

providers, Restaurants/ Cafés, **Attractions**, Public Authorities

New Call for proposals:

- [Facilitating EU transnational tourism flows for seniors and young people in the low and medium seasons](#) (Deadline 15-01-2015)

Consumer Programme 2014-2020

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The new consumer programme was adopted last 23 October and [proposed](#) by the Commission in November 2011. Although ensuring continuity with the previous one, the new initiative aims to better serve consumers' interests by enhancing product safety through effective market surveillance, improving consumers' information, education and awareness of their rights, consolidating consumer rights and strengthening effective redress, especially through alternative dispute resolution.

This programme sets financial framework for many actions that aim to improve consumer protection throughout the EU. These actions include financing of joint

cooperation actions between Member States market surveillance authorities and supporting Union level consumer organizations.

European Regional Development Fund 2014 - 2020

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[The European Regional Development Fund](#) (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. For the next period (2014 – 2010), the ERDF focuses its investments on several key priority areas namely Innovation and research, the digital agenda, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the low-carbon economy. The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region.

Upcoming Events

- November 20104: [UNWTO event on Accessible Tourism](#) in San Marino.
- 3-6 Novemebr 2014: [World Travel Market](#), organised by Reed Travel

Exhibitions, 3-6 November, London, UK

- 1 December: EU Tourism Day
- 5 December 2014: [Accessible Tourism](#): Innovative approaches between accessibility and heritage protection, Economic and Social committee, Brussels
- [2 December: European Conference on sharing economy in Tourism](#) organised by EARTH and NECSTouR networks, 2 December, Brussels, Belgium
- [Smart cooperation in coastal and maritime tourism - Encouraging transnational partnerships through clusters and networks](#), organised by DG Enterprise & Industry, 20 January 2015, Brussels, Belgium