



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

Tourism and Climate Change

Ten points of emphasis for green tourism

1. As a complex economic sector, tourism has links with virtually all political domains. Sustainable management, i.e. handling **non-renewable resources** in the most economical manner possible, is a requirement for eco-socially acceptable development, especially in the tourism industry, among others.
2. **Traffic, transport and mobility** are not only a requirement for tourism; they also represent problematic climate factors. Seen in this light, tourism is a perpetrator and victim at the same time. Preference should be given to those forms of mobility that emit no or only small quantities of greenhouse gases.
3. Climate change presents even greater problems for many regions with regard to the **supply of water**. In addition to clean air, peaceful surroundings and scenic landscape, water is the most important requirement for the tourism sector. The economical use and long-term guaranteed supply of drinking and bathing water must remain a central matter of concern for the public authorities and must not be left to speculation on the part of private investors.
4. **Energy** and climate change are closely interrelated. Great potential exists in all areas of the tourism industry through energy-saving measures and improved energy efficiency. A noticeable contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has to be made through greater use of alternative energy sources.
5. The principle of **cost transparency** must apply to all economic sectors, including tourism, in terms of both business management and macro-economics. All activities that accelerate climate change must be restricted through drastic taxation and charged to the end-user in accordance with the "polluter pays" principle.
6. Handling our environment and having regard for subsequent generations is, above all, a question of a society's **awareness** and the mentality of the individual. Both entrepreneurs and employees in the

tourism sector, as well as the tourists themselves can make a major contribution towards the climate by acting in a conscious manner. For this reason, **educational measures**, more intense **public relations work** and the **participation** of the public at large in the planning process should be supported for the benefit of climate-friendly tourism.

7. Agricultural production methods also have an influence on climate change. At the same time, sustainable **agriculture** which produces good, healthy food for the region concerned and nurtures and protects the landscape in its diversity is the best magnet for tourists. Organic farming, in particular, which refrains from the use of chemical fertilizers, as well as sustainable forestry management serve to enhance the status of tourism regions. Preference for regional products is also a measure for avoiding long transport routes. Furthermore, the greatest part of the value added remains in the region and mainly benefits the farmers themselves.
8. **Regions particularly affected and disadvantaged** by climate change need the solidarity of stronger regions. The European Union must establish a balance by means of its financial instruments.
9. Many tourist destinations are looking for new service and activity programmes (e.g. sport and wellness), because they have to **adapt** to the already changing weather conditions. However, these **adjustments** must not cause any additional emissions of greenhouse gases. Special attention should be paid to energy-saving and climate-protection measures in tourism regions in this regard.
10. Further networking and the promotion of "**best-practice projects**" at European level can be an effective project for the development of gentle tourism. The existing **labelling initiatives** for sustainable regions and individual companies should also include climate protection as an important criterion.

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