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3 **CAS R7: Recovering from Covid-19, building a sustainable tourism sector**
4 **across Europe**

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6 The COVID-19 crisis has tragically proven the vulnerability of ~~some those~~ European
7 countries, ~~regions and communities for which tourism, including congress tourism, is when~~
8 ~~their economic development relies, either an essentially or for~~ an important ~~factor in their~~
9 ~~economy or economic development- part, on tourism~~. This is especially true when it comes
10 to the coastal and remote areas of ~~some larger~~ countries ~~or entire island states~~, such as
11 Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, ~~as well as, even if with less~~
12 ~~immediate effects, in some attractive cities, such as Athens, Paris, Rome, etc.~~

13 Mass tourism as we know it, with its high environmental impact and exploitative practices,
14 must end. The economic model upon which it is based is economically, socially, and
15 environmentally unsustainable. The recovery from the COVID-19 crisis must lead the sector
16 to build back better. With the active involvement of all stakeholders, local communities,
17 tourists, businesses, business coaches and local authorities, a new form of tourism must be
18 developed: a holistic, just, resilient and sustainable one that respects the planet, connect
19 communities and people and promotes rather than destroys the diversity of cultures and
20 ecosystems.

21 Hence, as emergency measures to compensate for the brutal reduction in the economic
22 incomes linked to tourism especially in the Mediterranean, but also in other regions in
23 Europe, as European Greens, we call for:

24 • Assistance measures for seasonal workers as part of the EU's recovery packages,
25 ~~assistance measures for seasonal workers~~, especially for women and young people
26 who make up the majority of workers in tourism but, on average, are paid lower
27 wages and thus are at greater risk of crisis-driven poverty; special attention should
28 also be given to micro, small and family businesses that have less resources to
29 transition to a sustainable tourism model. Financial support and guarantees for
30 tour-operators should be provided on the condition that they commit to shifting to
31 a more sustainable tourism model adapted to countries' specific situations and
32 which protects the rights of European travellers;

33 • Conditionalities to the EU recovery assistance measures, to promote the shift to a
34 sustainable tourism model by:
35 ○ Developing a circular economy model and providing incentives for the
36 consumption of km0 products;
37 ○ Promoting participatory, cooperative and collaborative business models with
38 all the actors involved, including local communities;
39 ○ Generating green investment schemes to compensate for the carbon
40 footprint in local destination areas (renewable energy production,
41 reforestation, eco-agriculture, etc).

42 • Enforcing The enforcement of compliance with high standards of social and
43 environmental protection, including fair contracts and job security in the tourism
44 sector, and ensuring that all tourism ~~sites are accessible to physically challenged~~

45 people destinations, products, and services follow international and recognized
46 standards of accessibility so that they can be enjoyed by all people, regardless of
47 disabilities or age.

48 It is also crucial that we raise awareness across Europe on the impact our citizens have
49 when travelling in and outside our borders, and that the EU promotes a global model of
50 sustainable tourism worldwide.

51
52 To ensure the transition to a more sustainable tourism, and by keeping in mind that tourism
53 should remain accessible to all, not just a small elite, as European Greens, we call for:

- 54 • A halt to all airport extensions as well as reducing and/or stopping regional subsidies
55 for airport constructions and extensions; a quick and high taxation of kerosene and a
56 ban on the most polluting cruise ships;
- 57 • The relaunch of night trains across Europe and acceleration of the development of
58 European green cycling routes;
- 59 • The development of concrete plans to sustainably connect islands to mainland
60 Europe;
- 61 • The promotion of not-for-profit 'peer-to-peer' accommodation, sustainable
62 agritourism, and the support to local communities with the knowledge and means to
63 realise their strengths, away from mass tourism, and utilise them to their own
64 benefit;
- 65 • The support to digitalisation of art collections and development of online tours in
66 European museums and other cultural landmarks;
- 67 • The limitation of Airbnb ~~to one accommodation per owner for 60 nights;~~
68 accommodation to one accommodation per owner for a limited number of nights to
69 prevent the erosion of the rental housing market and competition with the original
70 small scale 'peer to peer' accommodations, and regulated working arrangements to
71 avoid exploitation of workers in this grey zone;
- 72 • Ensure that municipalities and regions can take such necessary regulatory measures
73 to prevent the negative ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the current
74 touristic model, without hindrance from higher tiers of government and
75 counterproductive legislation;
- 76 • The implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of
77 the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and developing national plans to combat
78 pollution in coastal areas and restore them;
- 79 • And ~~t~~The promotion of cultural and gastronomic tourism, with a focus on the
80 connection between culture and tourism, in Mediterranean countries with the
81 Mediterranean diet as a nutritional model that reflects the people living around this
82 region. This can be achieved by using local products, reviving local traditional recipes
83 and encouraging visitors to participate in activities based on local customs and
84 traditions, to learn more about the rich history and heritage of the area they are
85 visiting;
- 86 • Assistance for a just transition to other sectors for people and communities currently
87 dependent on unsustainable tourism.-

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89 Despite the important role of tourism in contributing to local economies, the
90 proliferation of mass tourism, particularly through cheap flights has a drastic
91 environmental impact. This is why it is imperative to shift from mass tourism to
92 sustainable tourism, and therefore apply green practices and standards across the
93 sector. Likewise, tourism can also contribute to achieving Sustainable Development
94 Goals. The COVID-19 recovery plan offers the opportunity to accelerate this shift and
95 ensures that a sustainable tourism sector is built across Europe.

96 Tourism is the main development 'tool' in many parts of the world, but it is also an important
97 component in the overall production of greenhouse gas emissions. This is why it is
98 imperative now to apply environmental practices both in tourist accommodation and across
99 the rest of the tourism activity 'grid'. After all, promotion of the environmental character of
100 tourism in accommodation or a location brings more tourists and better prices.