



Draft

Title: **Recovering from Covid-19, building a sustainable tourism sector across Europe**

Tabled by: EGP Mediterranean Network

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1 The COVID-19 crisis has tragically proven the vulnerability of some European
2 countries when their economic development relies, either essentially or for an
3 important part, on tourism. This is especially true when it comes to the coastal
4 and remote areas of some countries, such as Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece,
5 Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain, as well as, even if with less immediate
6 effects, in some attractive cities, such as Athens, Paris, Rome, etc.

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

15 Hence, as emergency measures to compensate for the brutal reduction in the
16 economic incomes linked to tourism, as European Greens, we call for:

- 17 • As part of the EU's recovery packages, assistance measures for seasonal
18 workers, especially women and young people who make up the majority of
19 workers in tourism but, on average, are paid lower wages and thus are at
20 greater risk of crisis-driven poverty;

- 21 • Conditionality to the EU recovery assistance measures, to promote the
22 shift to a sustainable tourism model by:
- 23 ◦ Developing a circular economy model and providing incentives for the
24 consumption of km0 products;
 - 25 ◦ Promoting participatory, cooperative and collaborative business
26 models with all the actors involved, including local communities;
 - 27 ◦ Generating green investment schemes to compensate for the carbon
28 footprint in local destination areas (renewable energy production,
29 reforestation, eco-agriculture, etc).
- 30 • Enforcing compliance with high standards of social and environmental
31 protection, including fair contracts and job security in the tourism
32 sector, and ensuring that all tourism sites are accessible to physically
33 challenged people.

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

- 37 • A halt to all airport extensions as well as reducing and/or stopping
38 regional subsidies for airport constructions and extensions; a quick and
39 high taxation of kerosene and a ban on the most polluting cruise ships;
- 40 • The relaunch of night trains across Europe and acceleration of the
41 development of European green cycling routes;
- 42 • The promotion of 'peer-to-peer' accommodation, sustainable agritourism,
43 and the support to local communities with the knowledge and means to
44 realise their strengths, away from tourism, and utilise them to their own
45 benefit;
- 46 • The support to digitalisation of art collections and development of online
47 tours in European museums and other cultural landmarks;
- 48 • The limitation of Airbnb to one accommodation per owner for 60 nights;
- 49 • The implementation of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the
50 Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and developing

51 national plans to combat pollution in coastal areas and restore them;

- 52 • And the promotion of cultural and gastronomic tourism, with a focus on the
53 connection between culture and tourism, in Mediterranean countries with
54 the Mediterranean diet as a nutritional model that reflects the people
55 living around this region. This can be achieved by using local products,
56 reviving local traditional recipes and encouraging visitors to participate
57 in activities based on local customs and traditions, to learn more about
58 the rich history and heritage of the area they are visiting.

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