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24 April 2008

Rural tourism and the environment

Motion for a resolution¹

tabled by Mr Gediminas JAKAVONIS and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

While considering the draft report “Sustainable development and tourism: towards quality growth” the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe found that rural tourism, a very important kind of tourist activity with high potential in Europe, was not included due to specific legal circumstances.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development – “Agenda 21” – emphasises three equally significant components of sustainable development: environmental protection, the economy and social development. It is the compromise between environmental, economic and social goals that paves the way to prosperity for present and future generations within the acceptable limits of an environmental impact.

The very nature of rural tourism suggests sustainable development in the age of intensifying global processes in Europe.

There is a close relationship between the potential of rural tourism and natural landscape resources. Rural tourism is a family business and has an inherent potential of conservation of rural cultural heritage. A number of European countries can show evidence of the problems that rural tourism experiences as a result of a misbalance of legislative provisions on environmental protection, the economy and social development with respect to the development of rural tourism. If the situation is not corrected, it may have a negative globalisation impact on human society and pose a threat to the existence of villages and estates where generations have ensured harmony between man and nature.

The Assembly decides to analyse the situation and make adequate decisions to that end.

Signed (see overleaf)

1. Referred to the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs, for information: Reference No. 3453 (19th Sitting, 23 June 2008).



Signed²:

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2. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group