

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001026/25
to the Commission
Maria Grapini (S&D)
(10 March 2025)**

Subject: Tourism development

Tourism is a major contributor both to the European Union's GDP and workforce.

1. While the development of tourism is a matter for Europe, does the Commission think it is important to develop transnational policies for tourist routes — such as the Black Sea coastal route spanning Romania, Bulgaria and Türkiye — similar to international transcontinental hiking routes E3, E4, E8 (which pass through Bulgaria)?
2. Could the Commission support projects for long-distance European routes?

Submitted: 10.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2025)**

Tourism is indeed contributing approximately 10% of GVA (Gross value added) to the EU, employing over 20 million people.

The Commission has been working together with tourism stakeholders in supporting resilient, sustainable and digitally-fit European tourism along the priorities and actions agreed together under the Transition Pathway for Tourism and European Agenda for Tourism 2030.

Transnational projects are supported by several EU programmes, such as Interreg, LIFE, Single Market Programme. For example, the Eurovelo project supported by the LIFE programme and managed by the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF), is developing a network of 17 long distance cycle routes that cross and connect the whole of Europe.

The 2021-2027 Interreg programmes have allocated almost EUR 2 billion from cohesion policy funds to finance projects under the specific objective tourism and cultural heritage, a key area for cooperation and regional development.

There is a strong link between tourism and other EU priorities, such as enhanced research and innovation, environmental protection, and competitiveness.

For example, INTERSMART is a transnational cooperation project co-financed under the Interreg Black Sea Basin programme where partners are working together to create a transnational Network for Interdisciplinary Solutions for Smart Sustainable Tourism and Services in the Black Sea Basin.
