

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002687/25
to the Commission
Aldo Patriciello (PfE)
(2 July 2025)**

Subject: Protection of Mediterranean coastlines and management of overtourism

Mediterranean coastlines are a vital natural and cultural resource for the EU, attract millions of tourists each year and make a major contribution to coastal regions' economies.

However, mass tourism has caused significant environmental and social overload in many coastal areas in recent decades, with repercussions for biodiversity, coastal erosion, water quality and liveability for local communities.

Overtourism also increases pressure on infrastructure, increases waste and energy consumption, and causes social tension over access to resources and services.

Thus, tourism development needs to be reconciled with environmental protection and the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage of Mediterranean coastlines.

In the light of the above:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to prevent and mitigate the risks of overtourism along Mediterranean coastlines, promoting sustainable and integrated land management?
2. What EU funding instruments to support environmental and infrastructural renewal in congested coastal areas are available or in the pipeline?
3. What will the Commission do to push for increased participation of local communities in tourism development and coastal protection decision-making processes?

Submitted: 2.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 August 2025)**

1. The Commission is aware of the negative impacts that unbalanced tourism may have in some destinations, including Mediterranean coastlines. While in many cases the local authorities are best placed in addressing these environmental and socioeconomic challenges, the Commission is taking these and other challenges seriously.

Through the Transition Pathway for Tourism ⁽¹⁾, the Commission supports destinations in their efforts to develop tourism in a balanced way, by providing better access to data, monitoring tourism flows, or facilitating dialogue and peer-to-peer learning.

2. Many projects on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean have already been funded under the Interreg Euro-Med programme. Its active online community also hosts many resources for new actions. For example, the recently started Regenera4MED project ⁽²⁾ will promote regenerative practices that go beyond sustainability, by building climate resilience, supporting local communities, and preserving cultural heritage.

3. The recent European Oceans Pact ⁽³⁾ is a comprehensive strategy to better protect the ocean, promote a thriving blue economy and support well-being and resilience of coastal communities. In addition, an updated version of the guidelines on 'Tourism and Recreational Activities in Natura 2000' will be adopted by the end of 2025. The objective of these guidelines is to support public authorities and economic operators by providing guidance and best practises to enhance the value of Natura 2000 network for tourism, while ensuring that such activities remain sustainable within EU protected areas.

Finally, the Commission is preparing an EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy for 2026, with an ongoing open consultation to citizens and targeted stakeholders ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://transition-pathways.europa.eu/tourism>.

⁽²⁾ <https://regenera4med.interreg-euro-med.eu/>.

⁽³⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/european-ocean-pact_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/have-your-say-upcoming-eu-sustainable-tourism-strategy-2025-06-23_en.