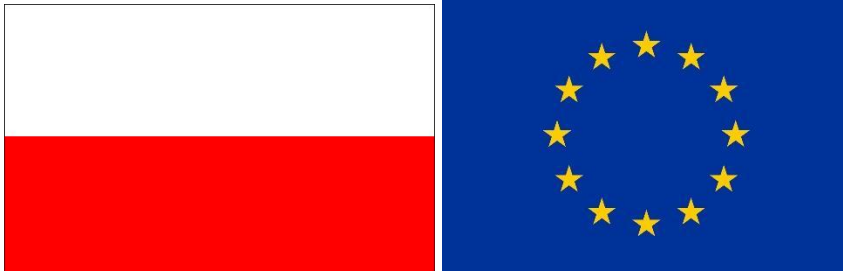


Texte de politique générale



Comité : Conseil de l'UE des ministres du tourisme

Sujet : "Comment gérer une croissance raisonnée du tourisme dans l'UE, entre opportunités et menaces ?"

Pays : République de Pologne

Délégué : Lina Chebeane

To the attention of the Commissioners of the EU Council of Tourism Ministers.

The Delegation of the Republic of Poland is delighted to participate in this EU Council to discuss tourism management in the European Union and the challenges and opportunities we face in this crucial area. We look forward to working together to find sustainable and balanced solutions.

Poland is a parliamentary, democratic, multi-party republic located in the center of Europe, and is one of the largest member states of the European Union (EU) in terms of both surface area and population.

According to its Constitution (April 2, 1997), Poland is "a democratic state governed by the rule of law", within which the Sejm and Senate exercise "legislative power, the President of the Republic elected for five years by universal suffrage and the Council of Ministers exercise executive power, and the courts exercise judicial power". The Diet is made up of 460 deputies, and the Senate of 100 senators. Deputies are elected by direct universal suffrage for a 4-year term, and elect the Prime Minister, initially on the proposal of the President of the Republic.

Andrzej Duda has been President of the Republic since May 2015. The President of the Council of Ministers (Prezes rady ministrów or Premier) is the head of the executive branch. His cabinet is accountable to the Polish Sejm. Mateusz Morawiecki has been head of the Polish government since December 2017.

I. Tourism issues and challenges for poland

Poland has many tourist attractions, such as its historic cities, unspoilt natural landscapes and rich culture. Tourism is a crucial economic driver, stimulating the hotel, restaurant, retail and service industries. It also promotes Polish culture on a global scale and strengthens cultural exchanges.

However, the rapid growth of tourism poses challenges such as over-tourism, pressure on infrastructure and natural resources, environmental degradation, rising property prices and loss of cultural authenticity. It is therefore essential to implement sustainable management strategies, regulate tourism flows and raise visitor awareness of environmental and social issues to maximize the benefits of tourism while mitigating its negative impacts.

II. Poland's position on EU tourism

Poland recognizes the importance of tourism as a driver of economic and cultural development within the European Union (EU). However, the unchecked growth of tourism can also generate environmental, cultural and social threats.

Tourism is fully involved in the integration of Poland into Europe, but in a specific way. Besides tourists, many more visitors from abroad are people who come for business reasons. The variations in flows of visitors and tourists are sensitive to the political and legal effects of European integration. The

tourist space of Poland is essentially regional and cross-border in character. For Their part, the Poles are more and more involved in international tourist movements.

International tourism to Central Europe has grown rapidly over the last ten years, with 73 million tourists visiting the region in 2005. This can be explained by political, economic, cultural and technical factors. Poland is at the forefront of this process of opening up to population flows, particularly tourism. In just a few years, we have become one of the world's leading tourist destinations, thanks to cross-border flows. Between 14 and 18 million international tourists visit Poland every year (19.5 million in 1997), putting our country at the top of the list of the world's top ten tourist destinations (ahead of Switzerland and Greece).

As early as 1990, the Polish tourist economy was recognized by experts from the EU, the World Bank and the IMF as a model sector, thanks to its rapid adaptation to new market economy conditions. It was recognized that tourism offered Poland the chance of rapid growth, acting as an engine of development that could drive other sectors of the national economy. By creating jobs in sectors such as hotels, restaurants, transport and local crafts, tourism helps to boost local and regional economies. The income generated by tourism also stimulates small businesses and creative industries, thus fostering economic growth and diversifying sources of income.

Poland therefore takes a favorable stance towards a reasoned and balanced management of tourism within the European Union. We recognize its potential to stimulate economic activity, create jobs and strengthen trade within the EU.

III. Collaborative projects with other EU member

Tourism offers significant economic opportunities for Poland and other EU countries. For example, it promotes culture and heritage, thereby strengthening European cultural identity.

Tourism offers an opportunity for economic growth, while fostering cultural and social exchange between member states. However, this growth must be managed sensibly to maximize its benefits while mitigating potential threats to the environment, local communities and culture. With this in mind, the Polish delegation proposes a number of measures to promote sustainable tourism growth within the EU.

First and foremost, we need to establish coordination mechanisms at the EU level to harmonize national and regional tourism policies. This would make it possible to better manage cross-border tourist flows, promote complementary destinations and avoid unfair competition between member states.

The Polish delegation also proposes collaboration between member states to mobilize European and international funds for investment in sustainable tourism infrastructure, such as environmentally-friendly public transport, eco-friendly accommodation and waste management facilities.

Mass tourism leads to high environmental pressure, which is why we are thinking of promoting Responsible Tourism within the EU, by making tourists aware of environmental and social issues, encouraging respectful behavior and supporting tourism businesses committed to sustainable practices, but also developing cross-border environmental preservation programs to protect fragile ecosystems and natural sites.

By working together, we can create a future where tourism makes a positive contribution to the well-being of local communities, the preservation of the environment and the promotion of cultural diversity throughout the European Union.

The delegation of the Republic of Poland