



29 September 2026, 11:00 - 13:00 CET
European Parliament, Room JAN 6Q1, Brussels

Towards an EU climate-resilience roadmap for sustainable tourism: NaTour4CChange project policy event & networking lunch

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background and policy context

Climate change is rapidly reshaping tourism across Europe. Heatwaves, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, coastal erosion, and extreme weather events increasingly affect tourism destinations, local communities, SMEs, infrastructure, and regional economies. Indeed, the Mediterranean is among the most climate-vulnerable regions in Europe.

The **EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy** offers a unique opportunity to strengthen the European policy framework for a greener, more resilient, and territorially balanced tourism model.

The Interreg Euro-MED project [NaTour4CChange](#) brings together 5 Mediterranean regions and 7 tourism coastal destinations to test and implement **climate adaptation and mitigation strategies for tourism, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and innovative multi-level governance models**.

2. Objectives of the session

The event aims to position project experiences and lessons learned as a concrete contribution to the implementation phase of the EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy and the post-2027 EU policy agenda.

It will explore how EU tourism policies can better integrate climate resilience **through territorial tourism governance, NbS and investment frameworks** aligned with:

- The EU climate agenda (adaptation and mitigation frameworks)
- EU Cohesion policy monitoring and funding systems
- The priorities and implementation mechanisms of the new EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy
- The role of Mediterranean macro-regional strategies and sea-basin initiatives

More specifically, the session would:

1. Identify priority EU policy instruments supporting climate adaptation and resilience in tourism regions and destinations.
2. Discuss how to mainstream resilience into tourism strategies, spatial planning, EU nature conservation and restoration frameworks (such as the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the Nature Restoration Regulation...), maritime, coastal and islands related policies, while ensuring coherence with funding programmes for the 2027–2032 period, building on the concrete tested approaches and tools developed by NaTour4CChange.
3. Underline the role of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as synergetic, cross-cutting interventions capable of delivering multiple societal, environmental, and climate objectives within the implementation of the new EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy.
4. Explore governance models and collaborative platforms enabling effective multi-level coordination (destination-regional-EU) and cross-sector cooperation (tourism, environment, transport, SMEs), with particular reference to the Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) model tested in the project.
5. Address monitoring and indicators:
 - o How to define operational climate resilience indicators for tourism in line with the new EU Strategy.
 - o How to align regional and destination-level monitoring systems with EU climate, cohesion, and tourism performance frameworks.
6. Translate EU policy priorities into implementable and fundable actions for regions, destinations, and tourism SMEs, including operational pathways and financing mechanisms to replicate and scale up tested Nature-based Solutions and governance approaches.

DRAFT AGENDA

Online registration [HERE](#)

Language of the meeting: English

Room JAN6Q1

10.30 - 11.00 | Registration of participants & welcome coffee

11.00-11.20 | Opening session (20 min)

- Welcome remarks
 - **Nikolina Brnjac**, *hosting MEP*
 - **Dubravka Šuica**, *Commissioner for the Mediterranean and Demography (tbc)*
 - **Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, *Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism (tbc)*

11.20- 12.30 | High-level policy discussion: Advancing climate-resilient tourism in the Mediterranean (70 min)

Moderated by **Maria Garcies**, *CPMR Islands Commission Executive Secretary*

Setting the scene

- Presentation of NaTour4CChange policy recommendations by **Izidora Marković Vukadin**, *Institute of Tourism Croatia, Lead Partner*

Governance and implementation

- *How did multi-level governance structures - such as the Regional Coordination Unit developed within the NaTour4CChange project - improve coordination between EU, regional, and destination levels?* by **Josip Bilaver, County Prefect of Zadar County, Croatia**
- *What are the enabling conditions and governance potentialities for implementing regional climate-resilient tourism strategy such as the one developed within the NaTour4CChange project?* by **Councillor, Autonomous Region of Sardinia**

Reactions from **Cristina Nuñez, Strategy Director, NECSTOUR** (tbc) with a focus on territorial uptake & **Xavier Font, Deputy Director General of Territorial Tourism Development of the Generalitat of Catalonia** (tbc) with a focus on the Mediterranean Ecotourism Consortium (MEC) as a concrete platform to strengthen regional coordination and catalyse stakeholder engagement.

Scaling-up

- *How can Mediterranean cooperation help scale up NbS across regions and destinations in the Southern shore?* by **Alessandra Sensi, Head of the Environment, Green and Blue Economy Sector, Union for the Mediterranean** (tbc)

Reactions from **Jeremy Sampson, CEO, Travel Forward** (tbc) with a focus on supporting tools for climate action planning.

Policy and funding

- *How should the future EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy support insular regional authorities in their tourism and climate actions?* by **Francisca Ramis Pons, Directorate General for Institutional Relations and Relations with Parliament, Balearic Islands** (tbc)
- *How can EU tourism, climate and biodiversity policy frameworks and funding programmes better support the deployment of Nature-based Solutions for the climate resilience of tourism destinations?* by **Maher Mahjoub, Regional Director, IUCN Med** (tbc)

Reactions from **attending MEPs and EC representatives**

12.30-12.50 | Policy outcomes and roadmap for climate-resilient tourism in Europe (20 min)

- How Nature-based Solutions are integrated into the implementation of the new EU Sustainable Tourism Strategy? by **Andreea Staicu, Acting Head of Unit, Tourism, DG MOVE** (tbc)
- Short- and mid-term milestones on climate resilience for the tourism sector in the next EU programming period (2028-2034), by **Curzio Cervelli, Coordinator, Interreg Euro-MED Programme** (tbc)

Wrap-up on key messages emerging from the discussion

12.50-13:00 | Closing remarks by **Nikolina Brnjac**, Hosting MEP

13.00- 14.00 | Networking lunch

15:00-18:00 | PSC Meeting in the CPMR Premises | Rdpt Robert Schuman 14, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium (only project partners)