

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION LIAISON COMMITTEE ON TOURISM (ETLC)

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PRESS INFORMATION

On 12 October 2001, representatives of European and international trade union federations representing tourism workers, meeting in Brussels in the European Trade Union Liaison Committee on Tourism (ETLC), discussed the impact of the terrorist attacks on the US and of the following events on tourism.

Consequences of the crisis are seen in all countries, but the trade unions decided not to join the series of estimations and predictions. Participants are convinced that duration and gravity of the crisis depend on the counteractions of the US. The crisis cannot be solved with military means alone, but needs political solutions.

The ETLC doubts whether the downturn of business and the cuts executed now are due to the events on 11 September 2001, only. Tourism associations requesting governmental or Community aid for the industry might impede a necessary structural change in the sector that began already to show with a slight downturn in tourism. Travel and tourism companies might carry out, under the pretext of the crisis, restructurings and redundancies they intended to accomplish before.

The first priority shall be to maintain jobs. Companies are called upon to find socially agreeable solutions to overcome the crisis in mutual agreement with employees and their representatives. Companies could use the opportunity, e.g. to train their employees. Extraordinary training initiatives would enable the tourism sector to dispose of better-qualified staff when the crisis is over, something the industry is in need for to provide high-quality tourism services in future.

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Food, Agricultural, Hotel,
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