



Recommendation of the Council on Government Action to Promote Tourism

**OECD Legal
Instruments**

This document is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. It reproduces an OECD Legal Instrument and may contain additional material. The opinions expressed and arguments employed in the additional material do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD Member countries.

This document, as well as any data and any map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

For access to the official and up-to-date texts of OECD Legal Instruments, as well as other related information, please consult the Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments at <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>.

Please cite this document as:

OECD, *Recommendation of the Council on Government Action to Promote Tourism*, OECD/LEGAL/0068

Series: OECD Legal Instruments

© OECD 2025

This document is provided free of charge. It may be reproduced and distributed free of charge without requiring any further permissions, as long as it is not altered in any way. It may not be sold.

This document is available in the two OECD official languages (English and French). It may be translated into other languages, as long as the translation is labelled "unofficial translation" and includes the following disclaimer: "This translation has been prepared by [NAME OF TRANSLATION AUTHOR] for informational purpose only and its accuracy cannot be guaranteed by the OECD. The only official versions are the English and French texts available on the OECD website <http://legalinstruments.oecd.org>"

Background Information

The Recommendation on Government Action to Promote Tourism was adopted by the OECD Council on 20 July 1965 on the proposal of the Tourism Committee. The Recommendation provides that Adherents should take action to promote tourism considering the important role played by tourism in national economies, the contribution of tourism to economic development and the social, educational and cultural impact of tourism.

THE COUNCIL,

HAVING REGARD to Article 5 b) of the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

HAVING REGARD to the Final Report of the United Nations Conference on International Travel and Tourism convened in Rome from 21 August to 5 September 1963;

HAVING REGARD to the Report of the Tourism Committee of 13 April 1965 [C(65)40];

CONSIDERING the important role played by tourism in national economies, in particular, through the diversification of economic activities and the creation of new sources of employment, and by providing foreign currency earnings;

CONSIDERING that the development of tourism can contribute to the strengthening of the economies of the developing countries;

CONSIDERING the social, educational and cultural impact of tourism and its significant contribution to the better understanding among nations;

RECOMMENDS to the Governments of Member countries, within the framework of their economic policy and programmes:

1. To stimulate and co-ordinate national tourist activities through national tourist organisations having the authority and resources necessary to take effective action;
2. To endeavour, through their national tourist organisations, to make the people of the Member countries conscious of the importance of tourism and to obtain wide support for tourism on the part of the general public and in government circles;
3. To adopt all adequate measures to ensure the preservation and protection of those features of their natural, historical and cultural heritage which are of substantial value for tourism;
4. To encourage travel, in particular for educational, scientific, cultural or sporting purposes;
5. To prevent, in the field of tourism, any discriminatory action based on economic, political, religious or racial grounds;
6. To grant facilities and incentives for projects concerning the construction, extension or modernisation of hotels and other means of tourist accommodation;
7. To encourage the introduction of lower transport fares for tourists, to the extent compatible with the requirements of sound economic operation of public and private transport undertakings;
8. To study, as and when appropriate, the question of exercising proper control over the establishment and operations of travel agencies either by legislation or by self-regulation;
9. To examine carefully the question of the staggering of holidays in close co-operation with educational authorities, employers' and workers' organisations and the various branches of the tourist industry, and wherever practicable, to co-ordinate their action in this field with that of neighbouring countries;
10. To make available increased technical assistance to developing countries in the field of tourism, on a bilateral or multilateral basis, in order to develop the potential touristic resources of those countries and their touristic equipment;
11. To impose no special taxes on foreign tourists or on their own nationals going abroad.

About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, around 460 substantive legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions** are adopted by Council and are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. They set out specific rights and obligations and may contain monitoring mechanisms.
- **Recommendations** are adopted by Council and are not legally binding. They represent a political commitment to the principles they contain and entail an expectation that Adherents will do their best to implement them.
- **Substantive Outcome Documents** are adopted by the individual listed Adherents rather than by an OECD body, as the outcome of a ministerial, high-level or other meeting within the framework of the Organisation. They usually set general principles or long-term goals and have a solemn character.
- **International Agreements** are negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangement, Understanding and Others:** several other types of substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.