

1 **EFGP 3rd Congress, Berlin – Draft Resolution**

2 *Presented by Los Verdes of Spain*

3
4 **ECOLOGICAL TAXATION OF TOURISM**

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7 Tourism has been considered traditionally as a bland industry, as an economic activity on
8 little environmental impact. This often makes us forget its important environmental and social
9 consequences. Tourism on a world level is the top legal industry. 10% of the GNP of the world is
10 produced by Tourism. Moreover, it is an industry that is growing very quickly: until 2001 the
11 tourist trade grew at a rate of 6% a year. The small recession sparked by the September 11th
12 events has now been left behind.

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14 Europe is the leading region of the world in tourist visits. Out of the 697'5 million
15 tourists in the year 2000, 403 million of them visited Europe. Two European countries, France
16 (75'6 million tourists) and Spain (47'9 million tourists), head the list of countries receiving
17 tourists. The Mediterranean concentrates most of Europe's tourism. It is, as well, a region that
18 has undergone an extraordinary tourist expansion: in 2001, countries like Turkey, Croatia, and
19 Slovenia have seen their tourism grow by over 10% a year, while Morocco and Tunisia have
20 grown 8% and 10% respectively. In some Mediterranean regions, the mass tourism reached new
21 highs: the Balearic Islands registered in 2000 and in 2001 over 11 million visits each year, the
22 equivalent of 13 visits for every legal resident.

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24 In the massive scale that tourism has taken on in the Mediterranean region, there is an
25 important impact on the landscape, on resources and on the capacity of natural systems to absorb
26 waste. Among the direct impacts is the destruction of natural ecosystems, the unsustainable use
27 of water resources and the explosion of waste production and energy consumption. Mass tourism
28 also means the conversion of rural areas into residential communities, erosion of local culture,
29 congestion and the creation of societies of great inequality in income and quality of life. Tourism
30 also has an important negative role in its contribution to global warming.

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32 For these reasons, tourism should be considered an activity that needs to have
33 environmental costs incorporated into its market prices, in accordance with basic principles of
34 ecological taxation. The introduction of ecological taxation on tourism should also discourage
35 the most destructive types of tourism and scale down the most congested areas.

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37 For all the above the III Congress of the European Federation of Green Parties, meeting
38 in Berlin, declares itself favourable to the introduction of environmental taxation on the tourist
39 industry.

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42 Miquel Angel Llauger, Los Verdes, Spain