

**STUDIES**

**THE EVOLUTION IN HOLIDAY TRAVEL FACILITIES  
AND IN THE FLOW OF TOURISM  
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

**Part I: MAIN FINDINGS**



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AND IN THE FLOW OF TOURISM  
INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

**Part I: Main Findings**

**1993**

**TOURCONSULT International  
TOURCONSULT Italia  
EUROPEAN TRAVEL DATA CENTRE**



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# ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The objective of this study "is to provide a prospective view of the situation regarding European Community and Non-Community tourism demand and to evaluate the impact of this evolution on the supply market". This information is intended to make it possible to assess the opportuneness of implementing specific forms of aid.

## **2. EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN TRAVEL DEMAND**

In the last four decades international tourism has grown dramatically, largely in response to

- economic growth and prosperity
- the development of air travel
- the widespread ownership of motor cars.

World tourism arrivals have grown from 25 million in 1950 to 429 million in 1990, and are expected to reach 637 million by the end of the century, a 48% increase in one decade. International arrivals in Europe are expected to increase from 276 million in 1990 to 338 million by 2000, an increase of 22% in one decade.

The European Travel Monitor is the only source of information on Europeans travelling abroad that is comparable across the various markets. In 1990, the ETM estimated that nearly 100 million Europeans took 230 million trips abroad, of which nearly 200 million were leisure trips:

The European Travel Markets can be broadly divided into

- *Northern Europe* (primarily Britain and Scandinavia)
- *Central Europe* (Germany and others without a Mediterranean coastline)
- *Mediterranean Europe* (the countries touching the Mediterranean)
- *Eastern Europe* (the countries in the former Communist Bloc)

The Northern Europeans have emerged as major air travellers and with a high use of the travel trade. The Central Europeans can travel abroad easily by car and are often the independent travellers, but Germany is so prominent a market that it has a substantial air market and tour operating industry. The Mediterraneans are now emerging as major international travellers, though traditionally they have taken holidays on their own Mediterranean shores. The Eastern European markets are less prosperous and in a period of momentous change which makes it difficult to be sure of future attitudes and tastes.

European travel abroad has been characterised by a number of key trends, of which the more significant are:

- the growth in second holidays and short trips. Whilst these trips have been encouraged by the tourism industry to help with occupancy and with seasonal imbalances, such growth has thrown greater burdens upon the tourism transport industry;
- the continuing shift towards air travel which has accentuated problems in air traffic control and airport congestion;
- the continuing rise in long haul travel which brings some highly effective competition to European resorts.



### **3. EUROPE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION**

Some 11.5 million tourists came to Europe (virtually all by long-haul and air) in 1989. Two thirds of visitors came from the USA which accounts also for 75% of spending. Canada, Japan, Latin America and the Middle East represent other major source markets. Inbound tourists from outside Europe tend to focus upon a number of leading entry point cities, and also tend to heavily use hotels.

Europe is expected to continue as a major magnet for inbound tourists, but there is little doubt that formidable competition is arising in

- North America (Mega-attractions, leisure facilities)
- Far East (exceptionally good value personal services)

North America is driven by excess capacity in its own hospitality industry, whilst the far East is driven by the need for economic development.

### **4. MARKET TRENDS AND PRODUCT IMPLICATIONS**

Market trends illustrate

- the considerable growth in the industry which requires more and more development
- the emergence of more and more behavioural and psychographic segments which demand their own particular product attributes
- the shift towards air travel and towards more frequent trips which bring greater environmental and congestion pressures.

Allied to the above is the fact that tourism is a major industry in Europe with a large number of people dependent upon it for jobs and incomes, consequently there is a pressure to ensure that the industry remains

prosperous and is able to fend off the dramatic competition which will emerge in the 1990s.

Critical problem areas in Europe can be categorised in eight categories:

- 1) Transport, as more and more burdens are put upon it
- 2) Managing tourist flows
- 3) Competition
- 4) Shift in the market mix
- 5) Development of Mega-attraction
- 6) Emerging Market Segments
- 7) Sun Problems
- 8) Development Problems

The product implications of the market trends are being covered by the private sector with a wide range of innovative products. Areas which are difficult for the private sector concern

- infrastructure, notably airports, air traffic control, high speed rail
- mega-attractions because of the difficulties of putting together sites
- the potentially special problem on parts of the Mediterranean coast which were opened up by air charter inclusive tours in the 1960s and 1970s.

The above are the areas in which public sector involvement at a community-wide level could be considered.

## 5. POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR ASSISTANCE

The critical fields where potential intervention is likely to occur are in

- development of international airport entry points in Southern Europe;
- development of regional airports and air services;
- help with mature products in some of the Mediterranean resorts;
- planning, research and statistics for the Community's tourism industry;
- promotion of the Community's tourism industry in the overseas markets - North American, Far East, etc.

The broad aims of intervention can be described as:

- easing congestion problems that would detract from the product;
- encouraging development and trying to overcome the problems that are often a hindrance to development in Europe, namely high land prices, complex planning controls and vested commercial interests;
- assisting resort areas that are in a mature and potentially declining phase of their product life-cycle.

It is difficult to know whether or not some of these problem areas are better handled at a national level or at a community-wide level. At present, insufficient information is available to make this kind of judgement.

The best approach appears to be to make highly specific studies of the particular issues in order to see where such intervention is necessary and feasible by the Community, and what type of intervention is most likely to be effective.

The specific issues which appear most suited to Community intervention are as follows:

- 1) a study of the air transport and airport situation looking at the needs and potential for
  - more major intercontinental air entry points in Southern Europe, particularly on the Mediterranean near major resort areas
  - the expansion and development of regional airports and regional air services in Europe

It has to be recognised that air transport in Europe is highly constrained, and whilst liberalisation has been pushed by the Community for many years, air transport development will remain a highly complex issue for many years.

- 2) A study of Mediterranean tourism, particularly in areas that were opened up by charter inclusive tours in the 1960s and 1970s. It is some of these areas which are likely to be seen as maturing products, thus requiring significant re-development. The way forward is to identify those resorts where a substantial physical planning exercise would be suitable. Thus a two-stage approach is proposed

**Stage I** is an overview of the Mediterranean identifying those resorts which need to be subjected to more detailed examination

**Stage II** would involve, for the selected resorts, a detailed planning exercise involving the identification of redevelopment initiatives, their financing and feasibility.

- 3) Planning, research and statistics for tourism at the Community level is just essential. There needs to be a study to establish a community tourist authority. This should cover aspects such as precise status of the authority, fields of work and funding. Added to this exercise should be the whole issue of potential promotion in overseas markets taking into account the current role of the European Travel Commission.

Opportuneness of specific forms of aid

The argument for the opportuneness for some form of aid at the community level largely relies upon the interdependence of tourism in so small an area as Europe, especially with the development of air travel, the development of mega-attractions which now far outscale individual resorts, markets and countries. Opportuneness also relates to the growing perception of problems of congestion, problems of potentially declining products and problems of achieving product excellence in an increasingly competitive market.

The approach suggested above indicates that the framework for Community intervention is largely aimed at major problem areas that cannot easily be handled at a national or local authority level. It appears best for Community involvement to be geared to these major problem areas.



## **FOREWORD**

This report has been prepared for Tourconsult/International as a synthesis of their preliminary report which is now presented as a series of Appendices in a second volume. This has been done partly to protect confidential information from the European Travel Monitor presented in Volume II (which is not to be published, but is for client use only) and partly to present a shorter report focused upon key findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the extensive research undertaken in the course of the study.





# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Terms of Reference

This study is undertaken within the framework of the Action Plan to assist tourism which the Commission of the European Communities is pursuing for the realisation of studies in certain defined sectors of tourism activity.

The objective of the study, stated in the Terms of Reference,

*"is to provide a prospective view of the situation regarding European Community and non-Community tourism demand and to evaluate the impact of this evolution on the supply market".*

This information is intended to make it possible to assess the opportuneness of implementing specific forms of aid.

The programme of work for the Consultants should include surveys of tourism professionals in the various branches and management in the business, in order to furnish a report on the evolution of the various types of demand in the European Community. Special attention should be paid to a variety of different market segments (e.g age categories). The report is also to include a comparative analysis of the probable evolution in tourism demand behaviour of non-EEC countries.

Finally the aim of the study is to:

- " - Identify the unsuitable products, the necessary modifications to existing products to respond to this evolution, and the new tourism products which need to be created.
- Define the framework and the modalities of specific aids".

## 1.2 Approach to the Work

### *Interview Surveys*

The analysis of current demand was conducted both through desk research and interviews with selected tour operators, travel agents, and other experts and opinion leaders involved in the travel industry. The interviews were designed to fulfil two functions. The first was to substantiate statistical trends and patterns in travel and tourism, as identified by the national travel surveys and surveys carried out across Europe by the private sector. The second was to determine trends in the organised/partly organised travel market and the extent to which the travel trade and other sectors of the industry are meeting current demands. Discussions focused on existing and new products being developed to meet the demand according to a variety of criteria (e.g. age categories). A list of interviewees is shown in Annex B in Volume II.

### *Desk Research*

This report draws on a wide range of different sources. Where possible, official statistics have been used as the primary source. Major sources have included WTO, OECD, EUROSTAT and major surveys of outbound travel from the major markets (e.g. USA, Germany, UK, Japan etc.). However these data sources have their short comings. They are frequently not comparable from destination to destination and market to market, since different methodologies are used for different data collection. For this reason, it was considered necessary to acquire data from a private sector source, the Luxembourg based European Travel Data Center (ETDC). Details of this European Travel Monitor are given in Appendix One in Volume II. The key aspect of this source is that it represents the only source of information on travel by Europeans which is comparable across the different European markets (e.g. UK, Germany, France etc).

### *Comparative Analysis*

The combination of interview surveys, desk research and the acquisition of the data from the European Travel Monitor has enabled the Consultants to create a comparative analysis of the evolution in the tourism demand behaviour for the EEC and non-EEC countries. This has allowed the Consultants to review the impact upon the supply of tourism products, and to comment upon the suitability of products in the context of the evolution in demand, thus pinpointing modifications or new products that need to be developed in response to this evolution. Against this demand and supply background, the Consultants are able to put forward proposals for possible aid in bringing about required changes. The specific of the methodology for the analysis is given in Annex C of Volume II.

### *Reporting Format*

The Consultants have presented the findings of this study in two volumes. The first volume is a short report which focuses upon the key findings, conclusions and recommendations arising from the extensive research undertaken in the course of the study. Volume II gives the details of this research. This manner of reporting protects some of the detailed commercially confidential information which has been presented in Volume II gives the details of this research. This manner of reporting protects some of the detailed commercially confidential information which has been presented in Volume II and is for the use of the client only. Volume I is available for widespread distribution if this is so desired.



## 2. EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN TRAVEL DEMAND

### 2.1 World Overview

In the last four decades tourism has grown dramatically largely in response to

- the economic growth and prosperity that has occurred in the leading tourist markets since the Second World War;
- the development of air travel which has opened up travel opportunities that were not feasible in time or cost in the days of passenger liner travel by sea;
- the widespread ownership of motor cars which has made the populations in the leading tourist markets highly mobile, but perhaps more importantly, independently mobile.

Statistics on international travel indicate what an extraordinary phenomenon tourism has been. To some extent these statistics overstate the situation because often international travel is merely replacing domestic travel. However it has to be realised that prior to World War II International tourism was confined to a very small segment of the world population. It was largely limited to wealthy Americans, and the top cadre of the leading empire builders such as Britain and France. In the last four decades the emergence of international tourists amongst the mass of the population in the lading industrialised countries and indeed the newly industrialising countries (e.g. Singapore, Hong Kong) is a totally new happening.

International tourism arrivals have grown in the following manner:

<b>WORLD TOURISM ARRIVAL</b>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Arrivals in Millions</i>	<i>Growth per Decade</i>
1950	25.3	+ 174 %
1960	69.3	+ 130 %
1970	159.7	+ 78 %
1980	284.8	+ 51 %
1990	429.3	+ 51 %
<i>Forecast</i>		
2000	637.0	+ 48 %

When it is emphasised that the above figures represent growth at a global level, then the magnitude of a 50% uplift in just one decade can be appreciated (see Appendix 5) (for forecasts, see Appendix 7).

## 2.2 European Overview

Growth in international tourism in Europe has been at a similar rate as in the world as a whole, and such growth has been for similar reasons as stated above. International tourism arrivals in Europe has been as below:

<b>INTERNATIONAL TOURISM ARRIVALS IN EUROPE</b>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Arrivals in Millions</i>	<i>Growth per Decade</i>
1950	16.8	
1960	50.4	+ 200 %
1970	113.0	+ 124 %
1980	196.0	+ 73 %
1990	276.0	+ 41 %
<i>Forecast</i>		
2000	338.0	+ 22 %

(see Appendix 5)

Forecasts for the decade of the 1990s indicate an uplift of approximately one quarter of the present level. Growth in Europe is expected to be at a more modest level than the world picture.

France, Spain and Italy have been the major recipients of European tourists, mainly as Northern Europeans have sought the sun in the south of the continent on the Mediterranean.

### **2.3 Europeans travelling abroad**

The European Travel Monitor (ETM) is the only source of information on Europeans travelling abroad that is comparable across the various markets (see Appendix One). In 1990 the ETM estimated that nearly 100 million Europeans took around 230 million trips abroad. Of these nearly 200 million were trips for leisure purposes. These trips were made both to Europe and outside Europe.

The ETM covers some 24 countries in Europe which the Consultants have divided into four categories: (see Table 2.1)

#### **1) *Northern Europe***

These are basically countries from Scandinavia and the British Isles. They are countries in the north whose inhabitants mostly need to cross water to reach the Mediterranean. The exception is Denmark but this country is included in this group because of its Scandinavian connections.

Table 2.1

## THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

<i>NORTHERN EUROPE</i>
Iceland Finland Sweden Norway Denmark GB Ireland
<i>CENTRAL EUROPE</i>
Netherlands Belgium Luxembourg Germany Switzerland Austria
<i>MEDITERRANEAN EUROPE</i>
Portugal Spain France Italy Greece
<i>EASTERN EUROPE</i>
Poland Czechoslovakia Hungary Romania Bulgaria Yugoslavia



Table 2.2

## EUROPEAN TRAVEL ABROAD

	Source Market .....			
	Northern Europe	Central Europe	Medit. Europe	Eastern Europe
(15+ age group)				
Propensity to Travel % Domestic & Abroad	69.5	68.0	62.5	36.4
Propensity to Travel Abroad %	33.0	41.7	16.4	14.7
Travellers Abroad - Millions	22	39	22	13
Trips Abroad - Millions	53	113	38	33
Nights Abroad - Millions	472	1078	409	224
Trips by mode of transport -				
Millions - Car	14	61	11	16
- Plane	30	30	20	3
- Coach	7	23	6	10
- Train	3	12	3	6

Source: *European Travel Monitor*

(See Appendix One)

## 2) *Central Europe*

These are the more northerly of the countries on the continental European mainland. For inhabitants of these countries, crossing borders is exceptionally easy and can often be done using their own personal cars.

### *3) Mediterranean Europe*

These are the countries whose inhabitants are able to access the Mediterranean within their own countries. Historically this has profoundly influenced their own travel patterns. The unusual country in this group is France, which on the one hand is in Central Europe when taking Paris into account but on the other hand is indisputably Mediterranean in its outlook on travel.

### *4) Eastern Europe*

This group includes the six countries that were within what has been termed the Communist Block, and all of which are undergoing profound change from a command-led economy to a market orientated economy.

The Northern Europeans have a high propensity to travel but because of their distance from the Mediterranean and their need to make sea crossings their propensity to take trips abroad is lower than that of their neighbours in Central Europe (see Table 2.2). However, Northern Europe has emerged as a major market for air travel and for the involvement of the travel trade in people's travel plans, much more so than in the other three areas. This largely explains the tremendous development of the tour operating industry in both Britain and Scandinavia. In both these markets consumers have been able to enjoy a highly innovative and competitive supply of tour packages since the 1960s. Mostly these packages have been by air to Mediterranean destinations, but increasingly in the last decade the trend has been towards longer-haul travel.

Central Europeans have the highest propensity to travel abroad (42%) largely because of the ease with which they can cross frontiers in their own cars. Thus the totally independent travellers tend often to come from these markets. However Germany is such a large and wealthy market that it has an exceptionally powerful tour operating industry. The attitude in the German, and Central European tour operating industry tends to be different to that in the Northern European tour operating industry. Mainly this is because the large tour operators are wont to exercise their marketing

strength, and consequently margins tend to be higher. On the one hand this can lead to better financial performance by companies but on the other hand the consumer enjoys less of a bargain.

The travel patterns of Mediterranean Europeans are greatly influenced by their traditions of travelling to the Mediterranean within their own countries for their summer holidays. To some extent this has changed in the last decade as the Mediterranean Europeans have started to visit Northern Europe and to travel long-haul. Some of the Mediterranean countries are relatively less wealthy and relatively more distant from the hub of Europe and consequently travel costs to other European destinations can be a burden. In the less mature European markets the cost of travel is an important deterrent to foreign holidays. This is especially true for markets located at great distances from the popular holiday destinations, like Greece and Portugal, or for which surface transport is not possible without crossing water, like Ireland. This adds significantly to the overall cost of a trip.

Eastern Europeans are just emerging from a completely different political and economic situation from the rest of Europe and consequently travel patterns are at a highly uncertain stage. Trips by Eastern Europeans tend to be short and tend to focus on less expensive means of travel, largely reflecting the poor economic situation of the markets.

## **2.4 Propensity to Holiday**

The overall propensity of Europeans to take a holiday has tended to reach a plateau in the European countries (see Appendix 2 for an overview and Appendix 3 for the level of trip - taking). In any one year there is always a significant proportion of people who do not take a holiday for a variety of reasons - age, illness, lack of money, lack of time, other things to do, work, prefer to stay at home, etc. (see Appendix Six). The main reason is lack of money. Largely this accounts for the fact that the propensity to take a holiday tends to be lower in those countries which have a lower average income per head.

Although the overall propensity to holiday has tended to reach a plateau, there is an increasing propensity for people to take more than one holiday

per year. Usually the second holiday tends to be shorter in length than the first with the result that the average holiday length declines. A similar pattern occurs with the third and fourth holidays in a year. Factors which have encouraged holiday taking have been

- increasing prosperity
- growing holiday entitlements
- lower real transport costs
- changing tastes and expectations
- greater urbanisation

There has been a great interplay between these forces. For example, the propensity to take a holiday declines with age; but with increasing prosperity and more pensions, the propensity in the older age groups has risen dramatically in recent years. However, partly this represents a shift in tastes and expectations. The 60 year old of 20 years ago expected much less than the 60 year old of today, who, of course was only 40 years of age then.

## PROSPERITY

In looking forward a decade, it appears reasonable to suggest that Europe could be somewhere between a fifth and a quarter better off than it is now, i.e. people will have 20-25% as much again to spend. But the relative impact on holiday expenditure is even greater because spending increasingly goes on non-essentials rather than essentials. However, the holiday industry should not underestimate the appeal of other leisure industries.

## HOLIDAY ENTITLEMENTS

In general holiday entitlements are now regarded as relatively generous. Further gains in non-working time tend to be associated with flexible working hours and longer weekends/short breaks rather than with more weeks of holiday entitlement. The concept of long term sabbaticals does not seem to have found favour in Europe as it has in countries such as the USA and Australia.

## REAL TRANSPORT COSTS

Transport costs continue to decline in real terms. Transport vehicles continue to become more efficient, and reduce the passenger mile costs. Despite the flurries in the fuel prices, it seems likely that real costs will continue to decline.

## TASTES AND EXPECTATION

There has been a massive shift in expectations and tastes in Europe in the last fifteen years. It seems likely that a similar shift will occur in the next decade. Many of these shifts will be associated with changes in standards expected in holiday destinations. These can be briefly summarised as

- a shift in the need to better facilities and improved standards of accommodation - bathrooms, TV's, recreational facilities, quality fittings, better public facilities, etc.
- a shift in the need for cleanliness, as people become more disturbed by the threats of illness and disease;
- a shift away from activities that will be perceived as potentially unhealthy, i.e. casual sex, excessive drinking, excessive eating, etc.;
- a shift away from destinations that are perceived as being high in crime and disorder;
- a shift away from environmentally unattractive areas, e.g. those with pollution, with excessive traffic, overcrowding, etc.

Table 2.3 - EEC HOLIDAYS ABROAD

Question : Where did you go ?

- On holiday in your country
- In another country in the European Community
- Somewhere else in Europe (Switzerland, Austria, Scandinavia, Russia etc...)
- Outside Europe

	Total abroad	<u>WHERE ABROAD</u>			TOTAL
		Another E.C. country	Somewhere else Europe	Outside Europe	
BELGIQUE	56	47	6	3	(1)
DANMARK	44	25	20	3	(1)
DEUTSCHLAND	60	34	24	3	(1)
ELLAS	7	4	3	2	(1)
ESPANA	8	7	1	1	(1)
FRANCE	16	11	2	4	(1)
IRELAND	51	38	8	5	(1)
ITALIA	13	8	5	1	(1)
LUXEMBOURG	94	69	18	9	(1)
NEDERLAND	64	46	17	3	(1)
PORTUGAL	8	7	1	1	(1)
UNITED KINGDOM	35	21	10	5	(1)
CE 12	32	20	10	3	(1)

(1) Total way exceed proportion shown in the first column because some respondents have visited E.C. countries.

Source: European Travel Commission

## URBANISATION

The propensity to take holidays is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas, and generally the larger the conurbation the higher the propensity. However, Northern and Central Europe is already highly urbanised, and most of the further shift to urbanised areas will come in Mediterranean Europe. Urbanisation is of great importance because when a destination sells to a particular country, it in fact sells to a particular conurbation, plus its catchment area within that country, rather than to the country itself.

### **2.5 Shift to Foreign Holiday**

Because of geographical location, it is much easier to the residents of some European countries to travel abroad on holiday than for others, and in addition it can be much cheaper for some to reach and cross a frontier. consequently a holiday abroad is far from a homogeneous quantitative unit.

Bearing in mind this caveat there has been a general shift towards foreign holidays. Reductions in the real costs of transport, improved communications and infrastructure, and changing tastes and expectations have all played a part in encouraging this shift from domestic holidays to foreign holidays. As a result of this shift, occasionally the domestic tourist industry in parts of Europe has suffered economically, notably the traditional seaside resorts in Northern and Central Europe.

In 1985, nearly one third of EEC adult holiday makers went abroad (see Table 2.3). These figures do not include the non-EEC countries, notably Sweden and Switzerland.

A comparable figure for 1990 from the European Travel Monitor indicates foreign leisure trips of around 140 million in 1990. Assuming leisure trips are broadly similar to holiday trips, then there has been a substantial growth in foreign holiday trips in the late 1980s, even though the overall propensities to travel have not risen appreciably.

## 2.6 Transport and Accommodation

### *Transport*

There has been a general shift towards the plane and away from the train and the motor car as the means of transport for the main holiday. In 1985, of EEC adult holiday-makers, some 13% used the plane. In 1990, the European Travel Monitor estimated that 35% of European trips (leisure and business, by travellers 15+) involved plane travel.

### *Accommodation*

There has been a general shift away from serviced accommodation into self-catering accommodation. The latter is cheaper and more flexible and tends to be used by holiday-makers as they become more confident about their destination.

Some markets tend to have a strong tradition of using hotels, e.g. UK and Germany, whilst others have a strong tradition in camping and caravanning, e.g. Netherlands and France.

The use of air travel by European holiday-makers tends to be strongly linked with the use of hotels. In part this reflects the strength of the tour operating industry.

## 2.7 Key Trends

European travel abroad continues to grow dynamically (despite economic recession). There are a number of trends which are shaping the tourism industry and which are having, and will have, a strong impact on the supply side in Europe. Foremost amongst these are:

- 1) Second holidays and short breaks of one-three nights are increasing at a much faster rate than main holiday trips.



This trend has far-reaching ramifications for transport and of marketing in tourism. Partly this trend has been brought about by the tourism industry itself, which has set up many exciting and innovative packages to fill off-peak capacity and to compensate for unexpected down-turns. This last aspect has become a feature of the tourism industry in recent years as political and economic volatility becomes endemic. The Gulf War, economic recession, wild currency fluctuations, which of course dramatically affects the perceived prices of different products to different markets, all put responsive marketing management action at a premium. However the key point is that more trips puts greater burdens upon the European tourist transport industry.

- 2) Long-haul travel continues to gain at the expense of holidays to short & medium-haul destinations.

To some extent there is a problem with definitions here. Short-haul was broadly seen as Europe or the Mediterranean. Long-haul was broadly seen as beyond Europe. Medium haul could perhaps be described as destinations such as Egypt or Jordan. However increasingly destinations such as East Africa and America tend to offer themselves as medium-haul. However the implications of the trend to long-haul (and medium-haul) could not be more serious for the European tourist industry. It takes important business away from Europe and it widens the horizons of European travellers, to some extent changing their tastes. It greatly adds to the competitive forces facing the European tourist industry. It is some what analogous to the initial entry of Japanese electronics goods into the European markets back in the 1960s.

- 3) Whilst car-based travel still dominates the European outbound leisure travel market, it continues to lose ground, mainly in favour of air travel.

The rise of air travel has been one of the features of the last two decades, much of that being associated with wide-bodied jets. This trend has opened up the Mediterranean coast and islands, often some distance from major population concentrations. The trend has also

taken Europeans further afield but equally it has brought Non-Europeans to visit Europe. Of course increased air travel throws more and more burdens upon air traffic control and upon a limited number of airports. Extraordinarily, there are often occasions when airlines are able to exercise their marketing strength through the slot which they occupy at a crowded airport rather than through any excellence in their actual service.

- 4) Growth to non-sun short & medium-haul destinations has begun to out-pace that to the traditional Mediterranean "sun, sand and sea" resorts.

Again this is an exceptionally serious trend for the those Mediterranean resorts developed since the 1960s. Primarily this affects Spain, Portugal Greece where charter inclusive tours opened up new coastlines often far from population centres. This had two impacts

- firstly, the resorts were a long way from their markets
- secondly, the resorts were highly dependent upon tourism

This leaves an exceptional dependence upon tourism linked with an exceptional distance from market sources even for other types of tourism.

- 5) Summer holiday travel has been growing more slowly than winter travel in the 1980s.

The significance of this trend is that the traditional summer holiday in a Mediterranean destination has reached the mature phase of its growth, indeed may even be into a declining product phase. This means that new investment, new product packaging and redevelopment is going to be needed in the near future.

## 6) Growth in Mediterranean European Outbound Travel

Whilst the level of trip taking is much lower in Southern Europe because the Mediterranean countries are popular holiday destinations in their own right, offering plenty of sunshine and opportunities for beach holidays - which are still the favourite choice of holidays for the majority of Europeans traditions are changing as witnessed by the growth from a number of the Southern European markets. In part this reflects

- economic growth
- a shift in fashion and tastes as Southern Europeans come to see Northern and Central Europe, and
- the general growth in long-haul travel which tends to be focused on the up-market segments and where potential exists primarily in the big cities. This has important implications for marketing.

To some extent the growth in outbound travel is a misfortune for their own tourism industries.

- 7) There has been a lowering in the average length of stay especially with the development of second and shorter-break holidays.
- 8) Demand for activity holidays has been growing, as has sporting and health consciousness.
- 9) Quality is becoming a higher priority - even if it means spending more for a holiday.
- 10) Rail travels expected to register much higher growth as a result of the expansion of high-speed networks and the opening of the Channel Tunnel.
- 11) Shifts in tastes, attitudes and purchasing power has led to a whole range of emerging distinctive market segments. These include:
  - 55K+ Age Group
  - Eco-tourism as a response to environmental issues
  - Special Interest Segments

- A variety of Psychographic segments

These market segments have come to expect particular attributes to their products. The proliferation in market segments has a profound impact upon supply.

- 12) Changing demographics will also have an impact on travel demand. In the 1980s, there were fewer marriages and couples had fewer children. In larger cities now, single person households account for as much as 50% of all households. More wives are working now, too, so that younger couples can afford to travel more than they used to. The rising level of education is also of significance. Around 60% of school-leavers have completed their college entrance examinations and the number of students attending institutes of higher education has tripled since the 1970s.

But perhaps the greatest changes in the market are not so much demographic as psychological in nature. Personal values, such as having relaxation and self-fulfilment, are becoming more important according to the travel trade. These and other trends identified by the experts were discussed in Chapter 4.

With increasing leisure time - a shorter working week, more part-time employment and more flexible working hours - the average European consumer of tomorrow and therefore, the average European holiday-maker, will have very little in common with his counter part of 20 or even ten years ago.

(For qualitative assessment of trends, see Appendix Four).

## 3. EUROPE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

### 3.1 Overview

Europe as a destination for tourists from outside of Europe continues to grow year by year. In 1989 the total number of visitors to Europe from outside the region was 11.5 million spending in Europe nearly \$ 16 billion. It is a big business for Europe made more significant because of its concentration in a number of locations and sectors of the industry. These locations and sectors are introduced below.

Firstly, inbound travel to Europe is nearly all long-distance and it is nearly all undertaken by air travel. This means that it tends to be focused upon a number of leading cities in Europe which also have major international airports e.g. London, Paris, Frankfurt, Rome etc. Whilst air travel is the only practicable method of travel for long-haul destinations, it does mean that this business is highly competitive, because it is as easy for a Los Angeles tourist to fly across the Pacific to Asia/Oceania as it is for him to fly across the Atlantic to Europe. Consequently it is potentially open to widespread penetration by competitors. Also, despite the efforts of airport operators, airport congestion is becoming a significant detractor from the enjoyment of the travel experience. In addition, the concentration upon relatively few entry points means that city congestion (in hotels, in restaurants, in shops, in attractions) for tourists is also becoming a detractor, particularly when this is allied with substantial price rises as smart operators see an imbalance between supply and demand.

Secondly, this inbound tourist business is highly linked to the use of hotel accommodation, even though there are significant segments visiting and staying with friends and relatives (VFR segment). Because of the concentration in relatively few locations and in hotels, when linked with the difficulties in developing new hotels in crowded and high property-cost locations, this has meant that accommodation costs have tended to rise relative to the other components of the travel package. By general contrast, air transport costs have reduced in real terms, shopping items have reduced in relative & real terms as have entertainment costs.

Thirdly, the inbound business is not highly seasonal which makes it exceptionally attractive to the suppliers of tourism services (i.e. airlines, hotels etc.).

### **3.2 Source Markets**

Inbound tourism to Europe is intimately linked with the main source market of the USA. Two thirds of inbound tourists come from the USA (7.5 million in 1990) and 75% of spending. US visitors are spending \$ 1750 per person per trip. Canada, Japan, Latin America, Australia and the Middle East represent other major source markets.

North America and Australia are markets with long family ties to Europe, notably the UK. As a result some of the travel involves visiting friends and relatives. But most significant for these markets are the heritage aspects of Europe.

The Japanese are visiting Europe also to see the heritage but equally to see Europe which is perceived as the leader unsophisticated entertainment and shopping.

Perhaps most importantly, none of the source markets is visiting Europe for a sea & sun experience.

### **3.3 Competitors**

Europe has been able to take advantage of its comparative lead in heritage and make a substantial penetration in these various source markets.

However it has to be recognised that there is potentially formidable competition arising in at least two areas of the worked, namely The Far East (particularly in China, Japan and South East Asia) and North America.

North America has emerged as a market leader in Mega-attractions e.g. Disney-World. The market for visiting these attractions is indeed a world-

wide market. Of course, the USA has been able to build upon its highly advanced domestic market and its very high quality tourism and leisure facilities. Added to this it has many of the world's leading airlines all of which are anxious to increase passenger numbers and revenues. Competition is driving the industry in North America where there is substantial over-capacity in the hotel industry. One answer to these problems of under-occupancy is to attract the overseas markets, notably Europe and Japan. The USA is also perfectly able to embark upon this and it has highly capable and sophisticated marketing expertise and all the latest technology. The emergence of North America, particularly the USA, as a major international tourist destination actively seeking overseas tourists, is going to be one of the dominant features of international tourism through the 1990s.

This will have a significant impact upon the European market which is thinking of taking a long-haul holiday. It will also have a significant impact upon other major source markets for Europe as a destination (e.g. Japan).

Interestingly, the USA is trying to identify itself as a medium-haul product in the European market in order to induce a product differentiation between itself and destinations which could genuinely be described as long-haul (e.g. Australia).

The second big competitor for Europe will be the emerging Far Eastern destinations. Unlike America, which is not really a heritage destination despite the excellence of the presentation of the heritage which it has, the Far East is a notable heritage destination with many cultural and ancestral themes which have been important to shaping the present world. Again, unlike America, the Far East is highly densely populated and lacks easily developable land sites but it does have a large amount of inexpensive labour which allows it to offer quality personal services at a modest price. Personal services are particularly important in the tourism, leisure and hotel businesses. The Far East is likely to become highly competitive to Europe. In addition, in the Far East there is a willingness to invest in the massive attractions and facilities that are needed for international tourism. Notable examples are investments such as Changi Airport in Singapore, the magnificent hotels developed in places such as Tokyo. Again the 1990s will

not only see North America emerge as a "big player" in the tourist markets but also it will see several countries in the Far East offering tremendous value and quality products.

The competitive environment for the European tourist industry is going to be much fiercer in the next two decades than it has been in the past two decades for these two reasons

- America is going to be a much more active player in the European market and other source markets than in the past largely driven by its own high level of capacity;
- the Far East is going to emerge as a formidable competitor with a powerful heritage combined with a very good quality and value product notably in realms such as hotels, shopping and general leisure services. Tourism will be driven by the need for economic development in several Far Eastern countries.

### 3.4 Key Trends

Larger and larger numbers are visiting Europe, in accord with overall trends in world tourism. Key trends in the in bound market to Europe are:

- 1) The shift in source markets. There will be a clear shift towards a greater number from the non-traditional market for Europe. The USA, Whilst still important, perhaps even dominant, will concede share more and more to others such as Japan, Korea, etc.
- 2) Whilst Americans can be encouraged to travel around Europe and to leave the key centres of attraction, the new emerging source markets will tend to travel in larger numbers together, to want a high level of activity, to want to shop at previously un paralleled levels. The need for more organisation and management at key centres of attraction will be at a premium.



- 3) Competition in these source markets will be fierce. The demands of the markets will be for the high quality standards - accommodation, catering, entertainment and shopping. These markets are able to select other destinations easily.

In this context Europe will have to worry about a number of potential product problem areas, as follows:

- Airport Congestion
- The impossibility of flying inexpensively around Europe concentration on a number of locations
- High prices which are tending to arise because of the concentration on a number of locations
- Difficulties in developing hotels in some city centres
- Management of heritage locations in some congested areas

Maintaining quality will be essential.



## 4. MARKET TRENDS & PRODUCT IMPLICATION

### 4.1 General

There are at least eight major trends in the market place which are going to dramatically affect the European tourism industry at a community-wide level. These are trends to which it is going to be essential for the industry and the authorities to respond unless they are prepared to lose the opportunities which a thriving tourist industry can bring.

Tourism is an activity with substantial and pervasive economic and social consequences and for this reason it cannot just be ignored.

The eight major trends are as follows:

- 1) growth is expected to come through more frequent trips rather than through longer lengths of stay. The consequence is that a much greater emphasis comes to be placed upon TRANSPORT and the handling of tourists at terminals than in the past;
- 2) more and more emphasis is going to be put upon air terminals as the shift continues to larger aircraft, and similar trends towards congestion will occur at specific tourist points. The consequence is that more than ever there is going to have to be an understanding of how to MANAGE TOURIST FLOWS, perhaps even by using pricing incentives more skilfully than in the past;
- 3) COMPETITION from USA and from the Far East as tourist destinations not only for Europeans but for tourists from source markets all over the world is going to intensify at a dramatic rate. The need for excellence in the European product will be as never before;
- 4) as more Europeans go long-haul in larger numbers and as inbound tourists come in greater numbers so the balance between European tourists and NON-EUROPEANS in many areas will start to shift. The consequence is that the industry has to gear its efforts more and more

towards visitors from countries much less familiar with European ways than say the Americans;

- 5) there is a substantial trend towards bigger and bigger attractions that are now described as MEGA-ATTRACTIONS, e.g. Euro-Desney. These attractions are being set up with a potential customer profile from tourist markets all around the world, from Sydney, to Tokyo, to Los Angeles, to London, to Bahrain etc. Clearly, such attractions have profound implications for the planning authorities;
- 6) there are several EMERGING MARKET SEGMENTS which are already deeply affecting the European tourist industry. The most obvious example is the retired or semi-retired market, often called the over 55s. Other emerging segments are the various behavioural segments, often called psychographic segmentation. Much of this segmentation is associated with the tremendous shifts in tastes, attitudes and acceptable behavioural norms, much of which has been fuelled by the great changes in communications e.g. television.
- 7) there is occurring a significant shift in attitude towards excessive SUN-TANNING. This will greatly affect the Mediterranean tourism product which will have to organise facilities to allow customers to undertake other activities in their extra hours no longer in the sun;
- 8) and finally, despite the threats of competition, it looks likely that the European industry will continue to grow at a substantial rate through the next decade and this growth will bring about a substantial need for NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT. Again this will have profound implications for the planning authorities.

Each of these trends and their implications for product development are explored further in the following sub-sections. Each of the trends has been elaborated as critical problem areas and the associated development needs to alleviate the problem in Table 4.1. A product strategy is described in Appendix 8.

## 4.2 Transport

An integrated High Speed Road network is clearly a priority.

The extensive rail network is an unusual feature of Europe unmatched in the extent of its network by any where else except perhaps for Japan, and even then many of the early Japanese railway development was by Europeans. This apparent comparative advantage has been little developed for tourism purposes. With the notable exception of products such as the Orient Express, the Scotsman and the many steam enthusiasts lines, the main railway authorities have shown a minimal interest in tourism. Many other authorities have been much more interested even if the benefits are more in good publicity rather than vast revenues from tourists (e.g. Blue Train, Johannesburg-Cape Town).

On the air travel side, alleviation of airport congestion and air traffic control are obvious priorities. From a strategic viewpoint it appears essential.

- a) to try to develop regional airports and regional air services in Europe.
- b) to try to open up Mediterranean Europe as an access point for international tourist visitors by air.

## 4.3 Management

Management of tourism in Europe is going to have to maintain its high standards in the face of the great competition coming in the 1990s. Key challenges will concern

- managing tourist flows at key attractions
- managing tourist flows at terminals
- heritage and conservation management
- maintaining standards and product excellence

Management training will remain a key priority.

## 4.4 Development

Development is a key need for Europe. Development will have to embrace

- Mega-attractions and Theme Parks
- Shopping Centres
- Activity and Sports Centres
- Facilities for emerging market segments, e.g. 55+, eco-tourism, special interests, activity groups, etc.

Some of the larger attractions will have to be developed with a world market in view. Often development is difficult in Europe because of high land prices, strong planning controls, and problems of integration between countries and between different modes of transport or other services.

## 4.5 The Mediterranean Coast

The combination of trends of

- more long haul travel by Europeans
- more foreign travel by Mediterranean Europeans
- the shift in attitude towards sun-tanning

suggest that the traditional "*sea, sun and sand*" holiday on the Mediterranean has reached a mature phase in its product lifecycle. Whilst for many Mediterranean destinations this will not present any problems because they will be able to redevelop and diversify without difficulty, some resorts, particularly those a long way from source markets, are likely to run into some difficulties. To some extent, there is an analogy with the difficulties that affected traditional Northern European resorts when there was a shift to Mediterranean sun destinations. But in some ways this will be more difficult for some Mediterranean resorts where dependence on tourism is very high.

TABLE 4.1  
CRITICAL PROBLEM AREAS AND STRATEGIC NEEDS TO HANDLE EVOLVING DEMAND

CRITICAL PROBLEM AREAS	STRATEGIC NEEDS IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
<b>1) TRANSPORT</b>	
Airport Congestion	Development of regional airports in Europe and regional air services
Air Traffic Control	Development of integrated air traffic control systems to eliminate continual delays
Air Services & air fares	Development of round Europe air tickets at competitive prices
Air Entry Points	Development of Southern European air entry airports for long-haul travel into Europe
High speed rail	Widespread development of intra-European services
<b>2) MANAGING TOURIST FLOWS</b>	
Tourist Attractions	Heritage Conservation & Management
<b>3) COMPETITION</b>	
Competition from USA FAR EAST	Development of excellence in products
<b>4) SHIFT IN MARKET MIX</b>	
Increase in Non-Europeans in European resorts	Need for services to cater for less European orientated visitors Signs, guides
<b>5) MEGA-ATTRACTIONS</b>	
Theme Parks Shopping Centres Sports facilities	Development of such attractions often with a world-wide market in mind
<b>6) EMERGING MARKET SEGMENTS</b>	
55+ Activity & Sports Centres Health Consciousness Eco-Tourism	Development of suitable facilities
<b>7) SUN PROBLEMS</b>	
Maturing/Declining Products in parts of Mediterranean	Need to establish new airport entry points in Southern Europe for long-haul source markets Need for new facilities in most resort areas
<b>8) DEVELOPMENT</b>	
Land costs Planning delays	Need to handle this with proper forward planning

## 4.6 Innovative Products

Contrary to popular opinion, there has been a wide range of new products and programmes introduced on the market over that last few years in Europe. These have both helped to stimulate travel and tourism to less developed regions and to encourage a better off-season utilisation of facilities.

However, most of these new products have been targeted at people who already travel at least once a year away from home for holidays or other leisure purposes. Few have addressed the issue of people not travelling at all.

The result has been an increase in number of trips per person travelling and notably, an increase in trips abroad. But the share of Europe's population that does not travel has changed very little.

Examples of some of the innovative products are listed in Table 4.2. The tourism industry is one of the most innovative and imaginative in the world. The leading tourism industry firms are continually introducing innovative products.

A critical problem for Europe is that, unlike the USA, it is not yet impracticality a single market. In the USA it is easy for a business to think in terms of an American market and indeed a global market. Leading Japanese firms (not in tourism) have thought in terms of a global market place since the 1960s. For European firms there are still many difficulties in putting together tourism products that can be marketed throughout the European Community. The impact of this is more seriously felt in the development of mega-attractions, which have to consider a wide geographic profile of customers.

The big push towards greater and greater segmentation along behavioural and psychographic lines as compared with straightforward economic and social groupings, is going to lead to more and more specialised products. However, such products have to be developed within the private sector. For example, it is only the imaginative private entrepreneur that can conceive



of a country mansion where special weekend packages enable visitors to play out a murder theme by Agatha Christie, or whatever. Not only has the product to be designed, but then it has to be marketed into those specialist segments who want that type of tourist experience.

#### **4.7 Potential Product Developments**

Some of the main products which can be developed to further enhance the departure of European citizens both in the main tourism season and off-season are described below:

##### *Accommodation*

The trends in the future seem to indicate that there will be a need to

- more one star hotels
- less average products
- more five star hotels

There is a very strong trend towards minimum standard hotels covering the whole of Europe. These hotels of which an example already exists as the ACCOR/IBIS/MERCURE chain would have minimum standards but have one bed of good quality (queen or double size), excellent hygienic conditions, and a shower with hot and col water; but no phone or television. In a word, high productivity and low service products. It can be envisaged a need of 1000 new Euro-lodges.

At the extreme opposite, following the trend of polarization in consumption, there is a need for new top class five star hotels with a large number of facilities inside and outside the main premise.

In between the one star and five star hotels, there should be accommodation facilities to cater to more and more individual groups with a specialization or destination, e.g. forest hotels, fishery hotels, motorcycling hotels, biking hotels.

In summary, there should be more hotels for more target groups (sailor, fishermen, etc.) as every consumer has more segments to fulfil in one year. The European hotels which had five main segments at the beginning of this century and have may be one hundred segments today, will arrive to one thousand segments in the future. The number of segments are consequently ever fanning out.

These trends will in the long run possibly reduce the present three star and middle class hotels. Family hotels will possibly decline in the cities and individual hotels risk decline unless they enter into a chain and reservation system. All hotels will need a special appeal and it is likely that we will assist in the creation of e.g. the European Forest hotel chain, the European Romantic hotel chain, the European Fisherman hotel chain. As said family hotels follow the trend in transportation and will be on a network. As for health resort hotels the trend will go from the medical (technopractic) accommodation facilities to health holidays with a fun and recreational scope.

### *Resorts*

A further trend is toward fun parks with good entertainment during the day. This will also change the professional role of tour guides who will no more be the classic guide of the past, reading Bedeker, but who will be a modern fairy-teller, not only giving facts but also making the visit to monuments and historical sites an event.

Resorts in the future will be developed like a film. That is, an event which co-involves those who are part of the tour with the surrounding site.

The resorts will also create a hotel atmosphere and what is much more important will be to create not only good superstructures but also and mainly a good leisure time organisation.

A further trend will be towards artificial resorts, i.e. resorts which are independent from the type of nature and environment surrounding it. In the past of course tourism was dependent on the nature and type of physical

surrounding. In the future we may well go towards an artificial leisure world with tropical atmospheres, vegetation, climate and exotic plants.

Already some examples of this exist such as the Tropical Pyramid in Vienna, a glass pyramid higher than 40 metres which has a tropical climate constantly 25c°, with exotic plants, a 3000 square metre swimming pool and a variety of sports activities as in open air.

So with this new artificial leisure world the competition of traditional resorts will be tougher and tougher mainly where sea pollution and excessive pressure will drive tourists away.

#### **4.8 Conclusions on Products**

The research has thrown up a whole series of potential product problem areas, which have been categorised in Table 4.1. Much of the product development in Europe has to be linked to improvements in transport, notably airports, air traffic control and high speed rail networks. In essence there needs to be European networks rather than individual country networks. In bound tourists from outside Europe need easy communications. Many existing developments are helping to bring this about (e.g. Channel Tunnel).

Several of the product developments have to be geared to maintaining quality, indeed ensuring excellence in the products. Here, both private sector and public sector are involved. It is clear that in Europe there are a number of comparative disadvantages which will have to be overcome.

These disadvantages concern:

- difficulties in putting together Mega-attractions
- high land prices and land shortages
- high labour costs
- severe congestion

Whilst the private sector can do its best to overcome some of these disadvantages, it is incumbent upon the public sector to play its part in preparing infrastructure and in implementing appropriate planning controls.

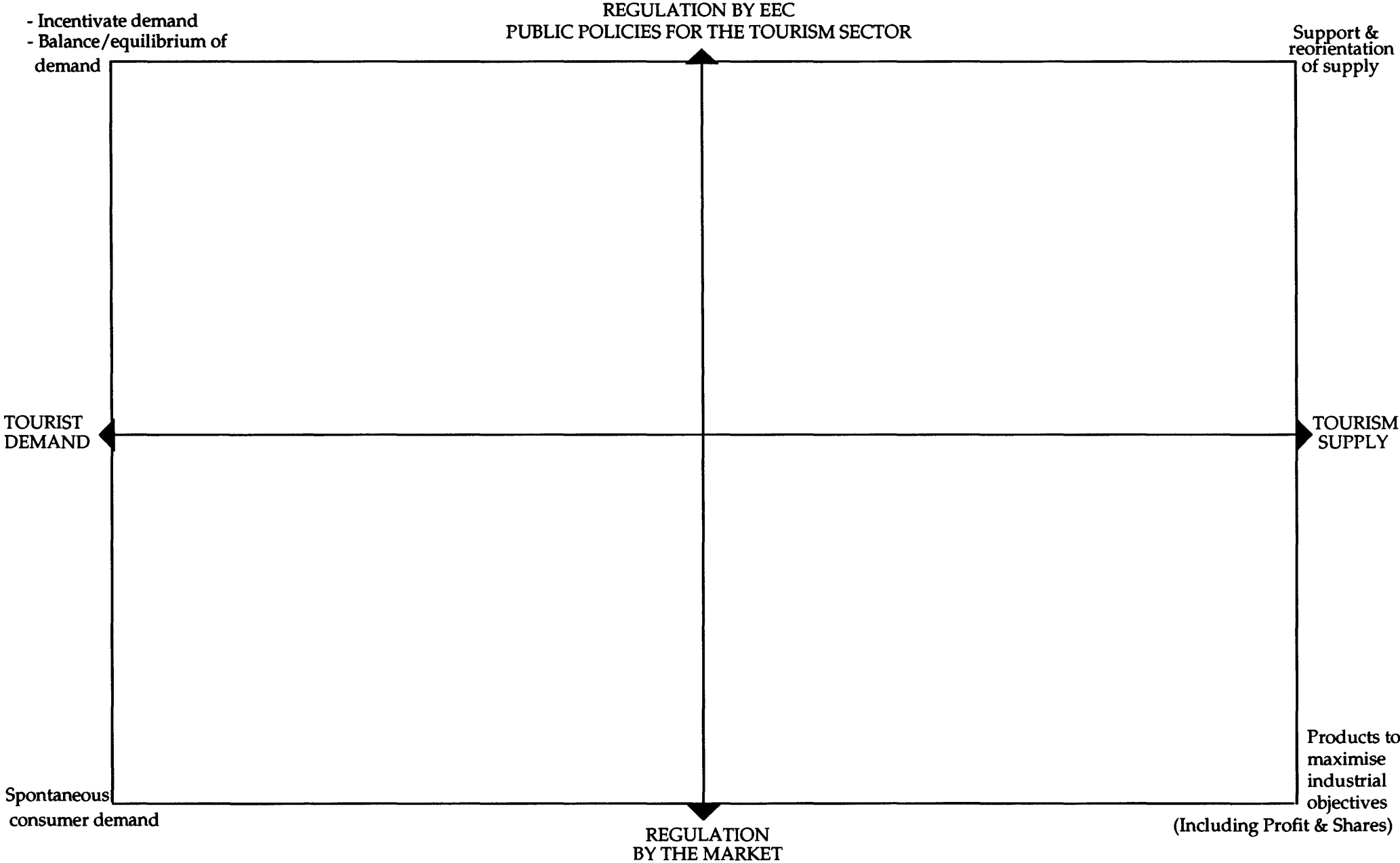
Emerging market segments, identified by the private sector, will continue to shape product development and the packaging of the products. These more specialised market segments need to be reached in a greater and greater variety of geographic locations. In the USA, it is much easier for a hotel in Las Vegas to market a weekend package for a leading entertainer/performer to Seattle, New York and Miami, and find customers in these niches, than a comparable operation in Europe. Differences in language and culture in Europe make it all a much more subtle procedure.

In one area of Europe, namely that part of the Mediterranean which was opened up with air charter inclusive tourist in the 1960s, there is likely to be a problem of product maturity, which will require redevelopment of old facilities, and new development of additional facilities. Current market trends will make it difficult for some of the resorts to cope with securing capital to achieve a transition to new roles. It is here that there seems to be a case for public sector involvement at a community level.

Table 4.2 - EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE TOURISM PRODUCTS

<p><b>Packages</b>  Special Interest Packages (rural, health, cultural, eco-tourism, sports, urban and heritage tourism)  Retired Packages  Youth Educational Packages (language)  Special Theme Weekend Packages  Low Income and Disabled Travellers Packages  Social Tourism</p>
<p><b>Sales</b>  Brochure - shifting to Video-text Systems</p>
<p><b>Resorts</b>  All Weather Centres  All Season - Mountain Resorts  Rural Tourism</p>
<p><b>Facilities</b>  Outdoor Sports Facilities</p>
<p><b>Transport</b>  Special Tickets  New High Quality Coaches  TGV Trains</p>
<p><b>Tourist Attractions</b>  Living Heritage and Visitor Interpretation  Heritage Conservation  Animation - Living Museums  Mega-attractions (Euro Disney)  Speciality Shopping Centres  Theme Parks  Craft/Ethnic Product Displays  Mini Countries</p>
<p><b>Events</b>  Themes and Anniversaries  Cultural Presentation  Sporting Events</p>

OUTLINE OF MEGATRENDS OF TOURISM IN EUROPE: TOWARDS A NEW EQUILIBRIUM?



OUTLINE OF MEGATRENDS OF TOURISM IN EUROPE: TOWARDS A NEW EQUILIBRIUM?

REGULATION BY EEC  
PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

TOURIST  
DEMAND

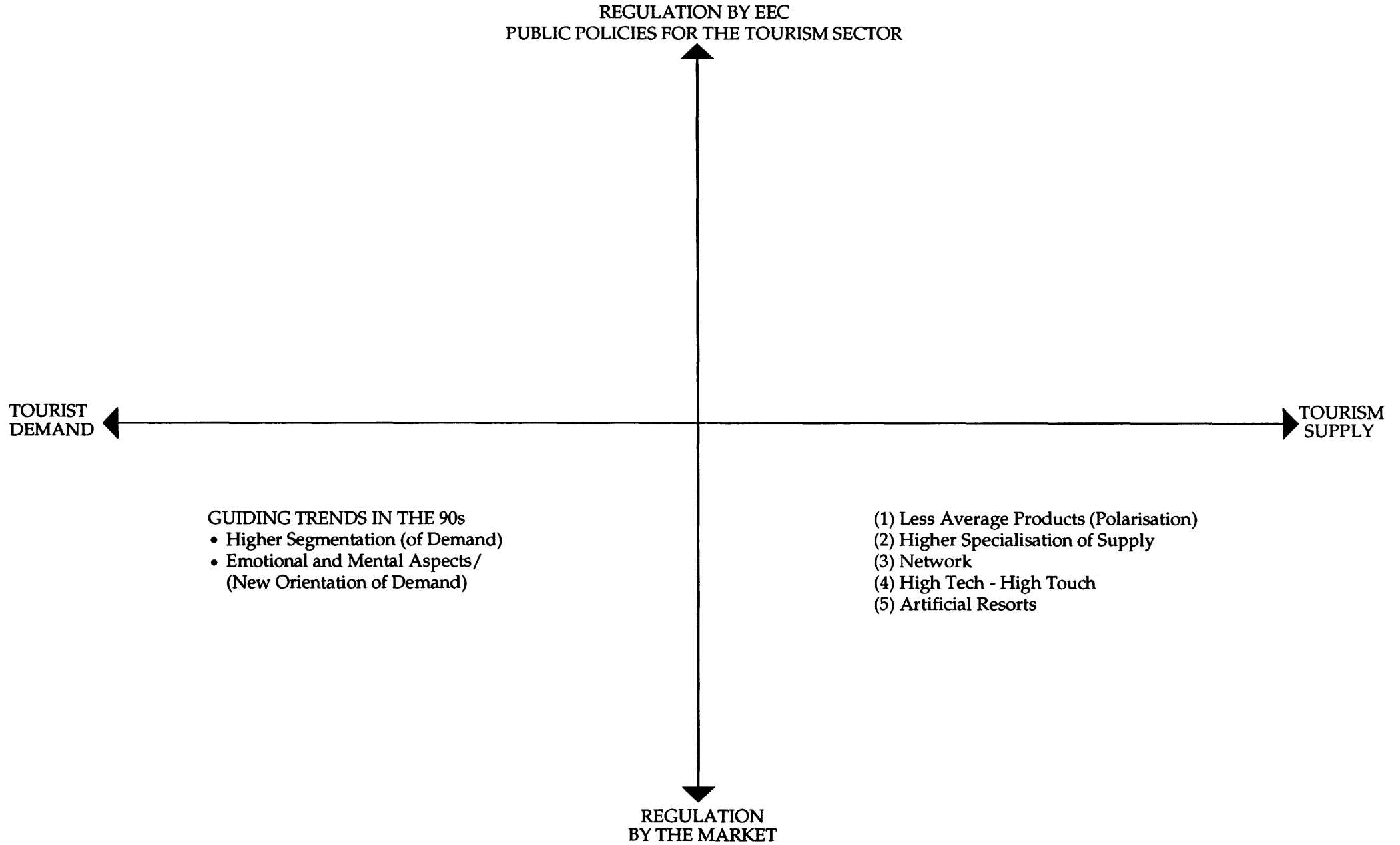
TOURISM  
SUPPLY

GUIDING TRENDS IN THE 90s

- Higher Segmentation (of Demand)
- Emotional and Mental Aspects/  
(New Orientation of Demand)

- (1) Less Average Products (Polarisation)
- (2) Higher Specialisation of Supply
- (3) Network
- (4) High Tech - High Touch
- (5) Artificial Resorts

REGULATION  
BY THE MARKET



OUTLINE OF MEGATRENDS OF TOURISM IN EUROPE: TOWARDS A NEW EQUILIBRIUM?

REGULATION BY EEC  
PUBLIC POLICIES FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

**Social and Cultural Perspectives**

- Incentives (monetary, fiscal, etc.) to individuals & organisations
- Information and reorientation policy
- Policies of incentivisation of holiday consumer's representative bodies
- Promotional body to work closely with EEC as umbrella organisation for both the private and public sector

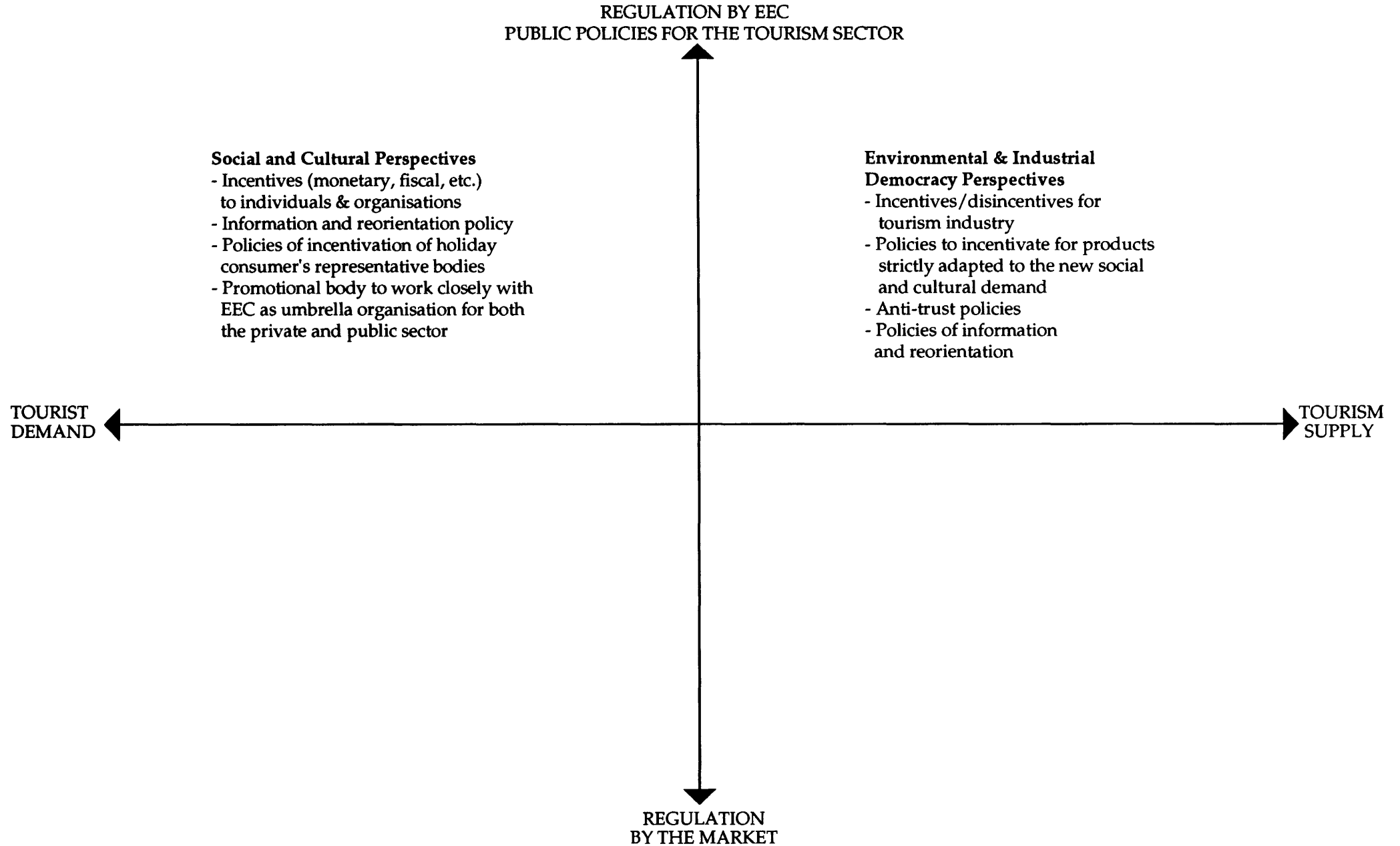
**Environmental & Industrial  
Democracy Perspectives**

- Incentives/disincentives for tourism industry
- Policies to incentivate for products strictly adapted to the new social and cultural demand
- Anti-trust policies
- Policies of information and reorientation

TOURIST  
DEMAND

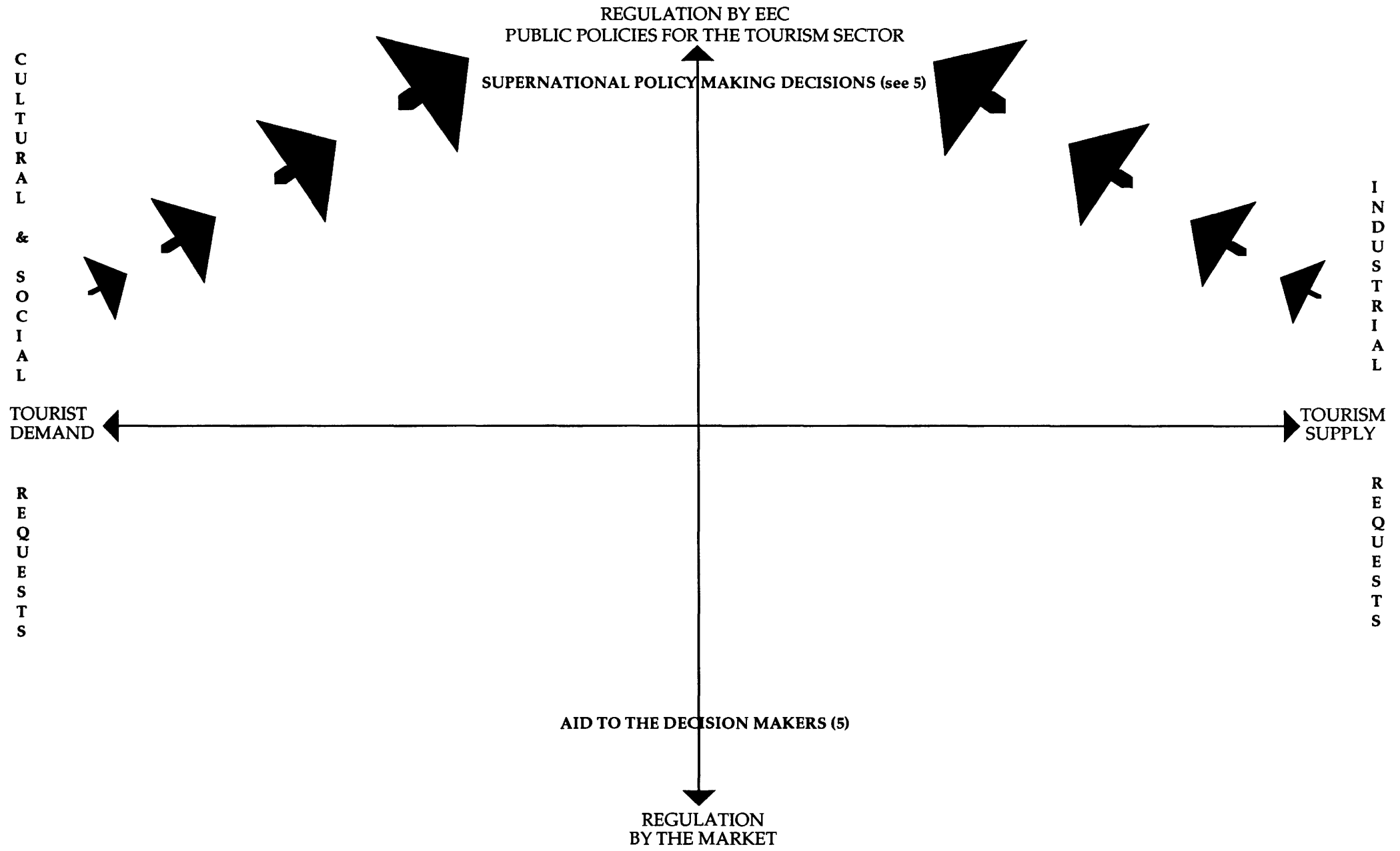
TOURISM  
SUPPLY

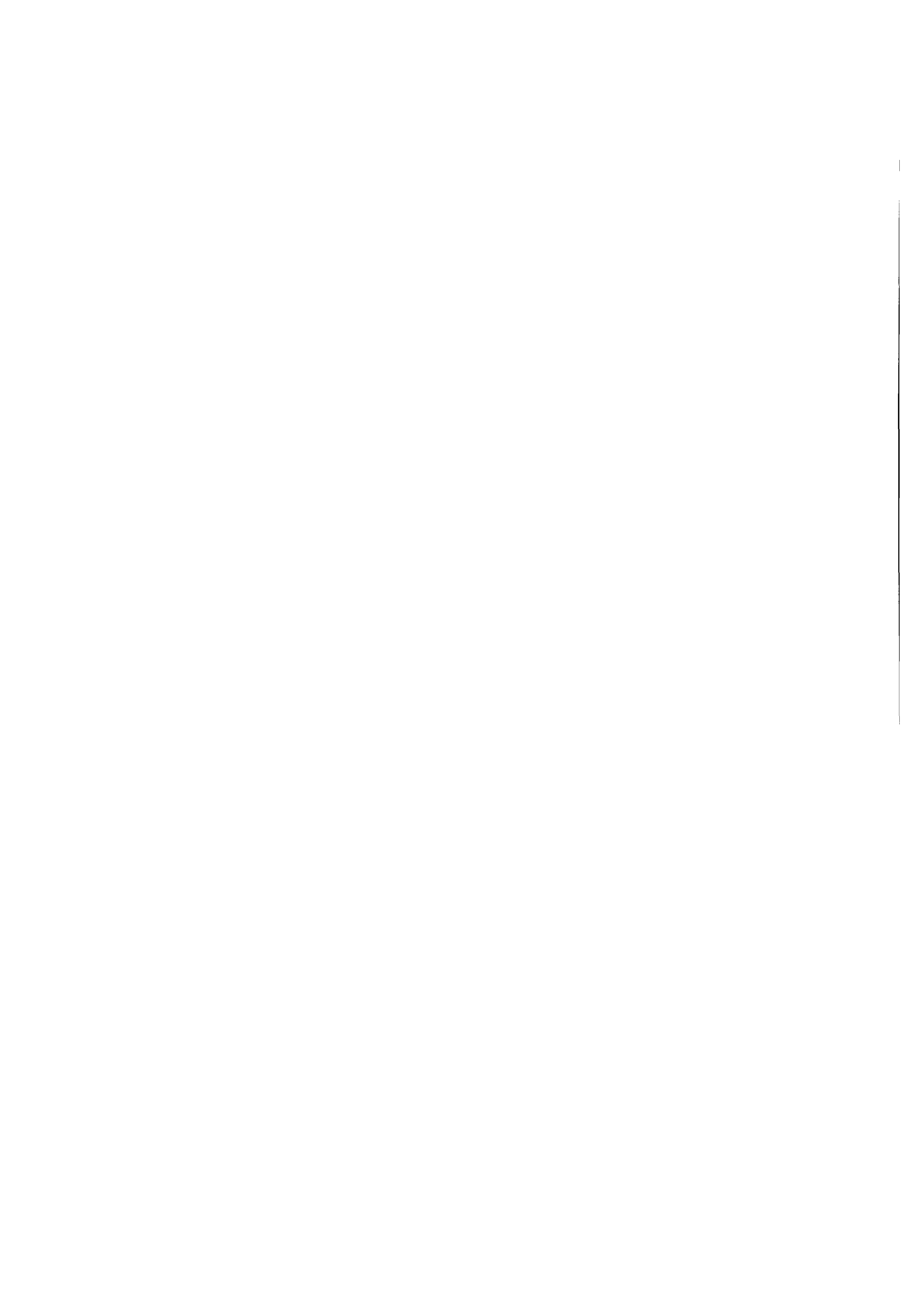
REGULATION  
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OUTLINE OF MEGATRENDS OF TOURISM IN EUROPE: TOWARDS A NEW EQUILIBRIUM?





## **5. POSSIBLE FRAMEWORK FOR ASSISTANCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

In the previous sections a number of critical problem areas have been highlighted which need to be tackled in a cooperative manner by the different countries within the European Community. Tourism is a particularly international business. Somewhere such as Europe, where borders are easily driven over and even more easily flown over in a matter of 2-3 hours at the most, now has to think in terms of cooperative international solutions rather than national solutions in an industry such as tourism. For this reason the Consultants have focused their recommendations regarding potential assistance upon problems which need to be solved at a community-wide level rather than at a national level. In this way the recommendations fall into line with the concept of subsidiarity whereby community authorities embark upon only those activities which cannot best be carried out by national authorities but are rather best carried out by community authorities.

Before embarking upon the recommendations with respect to potential assistance, the Consultants set out the key findings from the research with the travel trade. The actual recommendations have been drawn up based upon the research carried out with the European travel trade but also they are based upon the Consultants' long experience with international tourism all around the world (at least 70 countries). To draw upon this long experience has been necessary because the travel trade often refrain from highlighting problems which they perceive as potentially demanding to future business.

### **5.2 Findings of the Travel Research**

The findings of the study research with respect to aid to the tourism industry are summarised in Appendix Nine. Essentially these observations reflect the views of the travel trade.

Key points are that any aid should be focused upon

- promotion of the European Community outside of the Community
- assistance to the less developed and poorer regions of the Community
- encouraging quality standards in the tourism industry in the Community
- supporting the staggering of school holidays in the Community
- bringing about Community-wide schemes to improve tourism, such as the Euro-rail pass, Eurocheques
- developing technology especially in the area of computer reservation systems
- assistance to disadvantaged groups and developing social tourism

TABLE 5.1 - STRATEGIC NEEDS AND POTENTIAL INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC NEEDS IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	SCOPE FOR POTENTIAL INTERVENTION
Regional Airports and Services	There is a need for intervention because of the resistance of airlines and existing main entry/hub airport operators
Air Traffic Control	This is a highly specialised area already coordinated at a European level
Development of entry points in Southern Europe	There is a need for intervention because of the resistance of airlines and existing main entry/hub airport operators
High Speed Rail	This is a highly specialised area already coordinated at a European level
Heritage, Conservation & Management of Traffic Flows	The encouragement of a Europe-wide approach is needed
Development of excellence in tourism products	Standards
Services to cater for Non-Europeans	Encouragement
Development of Mega-Attractions	Encouragement perhaps with sites and planning
Development of facilities for segments	Encouragement perhaps with sites and planning
Maturing/Declining Products	Large need for intervention in Southern Europe
Development	Encouragement perhaps with sites and planning
ADDITIONAL NEEDS	
Planning	More studies of specific issues
Research	Research into specific issues
Statistics	Need Annual Report setting out key Statistics
Promotion	Further encouragement depending on role of European Travel Commission - Special Events - Cultural Events - Themes

Assistance would need to take into account the extensive aid already available from national sources which includes

- capital grants
- soft loans
- interest rate holidays
- exemptions on duties
- tax holidays
- fiscal concessions
- rental concessions

Various national schemes are described in Appendix Nine.

### **5.3 Strategic Needs and Potential Intervention Fields**

The key strategic need and the broad need for intervention is summarised in Table 5.1. The broad aims of intervention can be described as:

- easing congestion problems that would detract from the product
- encouraging development and trying to overcome the problem that are often a hindrance to development in Europe, namely high land prices, complex planning controls and vested commercial interests
- assisting resort areas that are in a mature and potentially declining phase of their product lifecycle

It is difficult to know whether or not some of these problem areas are better handled at a national level or at a community-wide level.

At present, insufficient information is available to make this kind of judgement.

The best approach appears to be to make highly specific studies of the particular issues in order to see where such intervention is necessary and

feasible by the Community, and what type of intervention is most likely to be effective.

The specific issues which appear most suited to community intervention are as follows:

- 1) a study of the air transport and airport situation looking at the needs and potential for
  - more major intercontinental air entry points in Southern Europe, particularly on the Mediterranean near major resort areas
  - the expansion and development of regional airports and regional air services in Europe

It has to be recognised that air transport in Europe is highly constrained, and whilst liberation has been pushed by the Community for many years, air transport development will remain a highly complex issue for many years.

- 2) a study of Mediterranean tourism, particularly in areas that were opened up by charter inclusive tours in the 1960s and 1970s. It is some of these areas which are likely to be seen as maturing products, thus requiring significant redevelopment. The way forward is to identify those resorts where a substantial physical planning exercise would be suitable. Thus a two-stage approach is proposed.

**Stage I** is an overview of the Mediterranean identifying those resorts which need to be subjected to more detailed examination.

**Stage II** would involve, for the selected resorts, a detailed planning exercise involving the identification of redevelopment initiatives, their financing and feasibility.

- 3) planning, research and statistics for tourism the community level is just essential. There needs to be a study to establish a community tourist authority. This should cover aspects such as precise status of the authority, fields of work and funding. Added to this exercise should be

the whole issue of potential promotion in overseas markets taking into account the current role of the European Travel Commission.

#### **5.4 Opportuneness of specific form of aid**

The argument for the opportuneness for some form of aid at the community level largely relies upon the interdependence of tourism in so small an area as Europe, especially with the development of air travel, the development of mega-attractions which now far out-scale individual resorts, markets and countries. Opportuneness also relates to the growing perception of problems of congestion, problems of potentially declining products and problems of achieving product excellence in an increasingly competitive market.

The framework for such assistance is something which has to be worked out over time. There is a lot of assistance already available in different guises which impinges upon the tourism industry, for example, the regional assistance. Distinctive sectoral assistance would have to be tailored to specific elements of the tourism industry, e.g. tourist accommodation. But it is difficult to see how this can be executed at a community level. The approach suggest above indicates that the framework for community intervention is largely aimed at major problem areas that cannot easily be handled at a national or local authority level. It appears best for community involvement to be geared to these major problem areas.

The actual means of assistance has to be designed to meet the problem entailed. Whilst most of the proposals above lead to a relatively modest expenditure of resources ( e. g. on planning, research, promotion etc.) new developments or redevelopment in the area of airports or resorts is likely to lead to large calls upon capital and thus upon interventions which would reduce the cost of capital.



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# Eastern Europe and the USSR

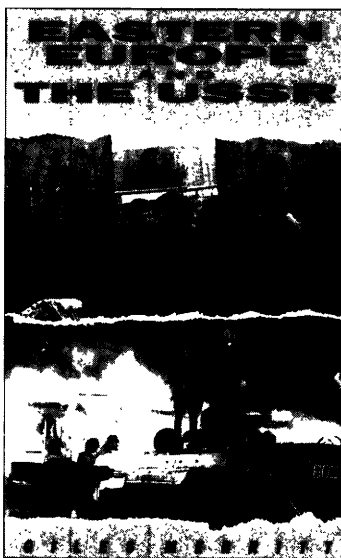
## THE CHALLENGE OF FREEDOM

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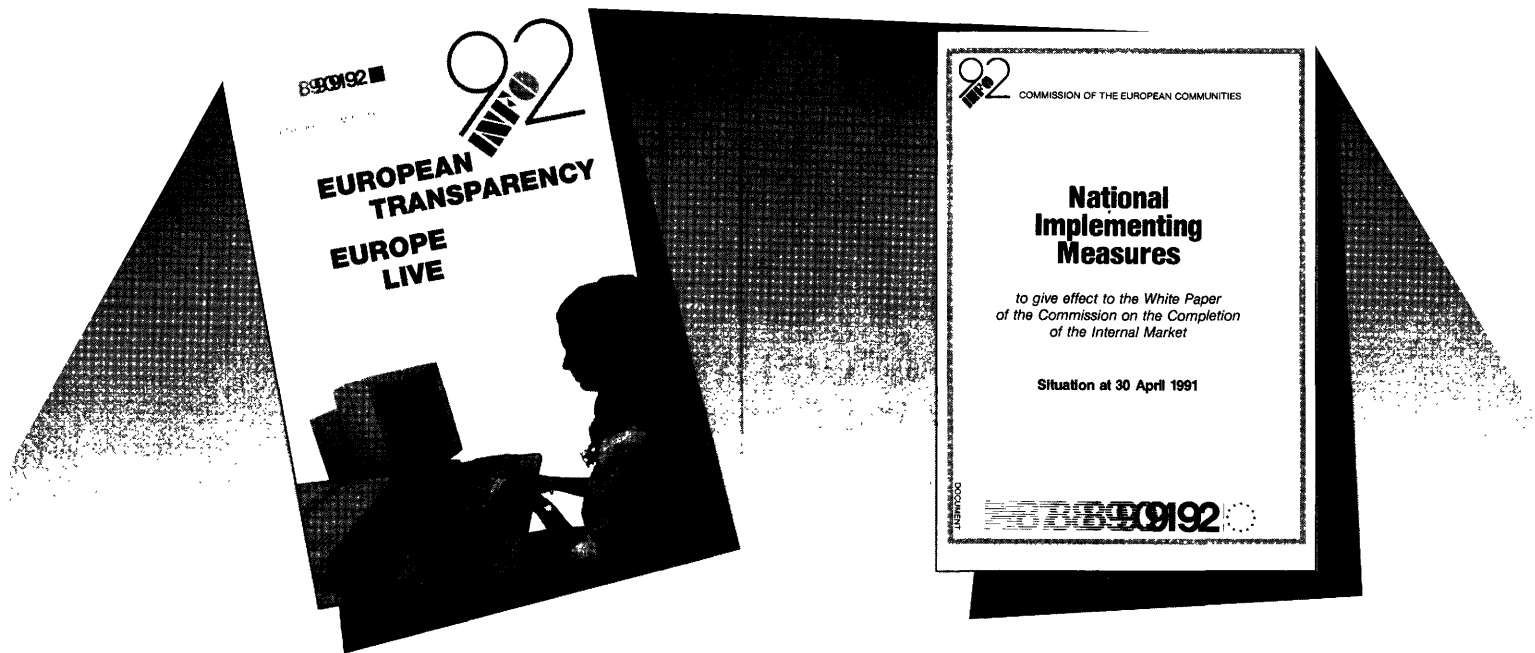
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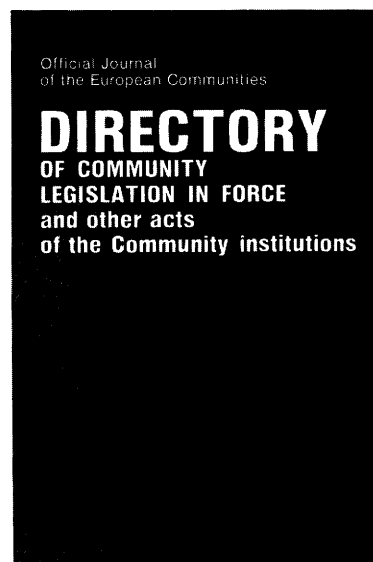
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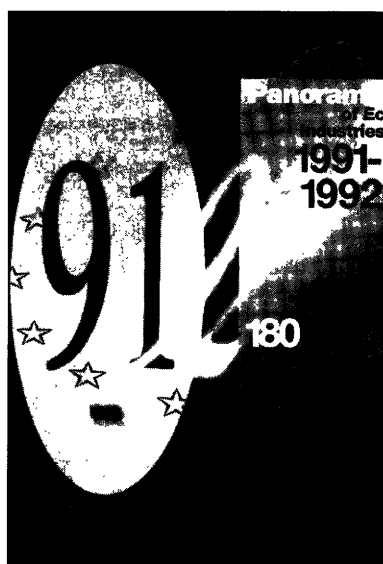
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## A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE AND THE WORLD

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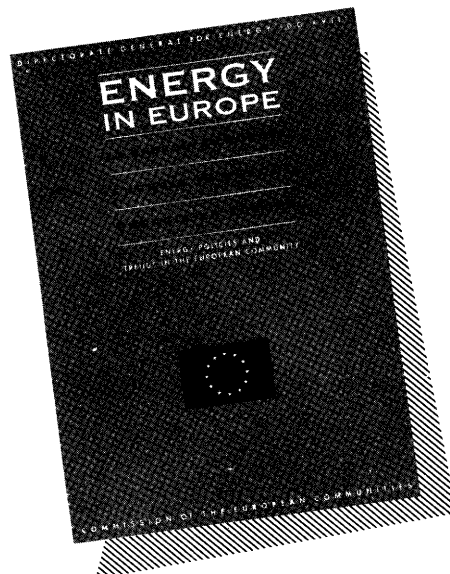
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