

Introduction

Tourism is travel for pleasure or business; also the theory and practice of touring, the business of attracting, accommodating, and entertaining tourists, and the business of operating tours. Tourism may be within the traveller's country, but has become more and more international. Today, tourism is an important, even vital, source of income for many regions and countries. The service industries which benefit from tourism include transportation services, hospitality services and entertainment venues.

It should therefore not come as a surprise that regulation of this industry has increased in the past decades and years and has become more and more international. With the advent of E-commerce, tourism products have become one of the most traded items on the internet.

This book offers a succinct collection of legislative text and materials related to Belgian and European Tourism Law. Focus is on the law relevant to tourism emanating from the European Union. More specifically, the following areas are covered in this compendium. It starts with an introduction to the freedom of movement of tourists and tourism services, and the EU's role in creating tourism law. Even though the EU's specific competence on tourism is relatively limited, the EU has significant influence on tourism law through its role in promoting consumer protection. The 2015 Package Travel Directive (which came into effect in Belgium on 1 July 2018) and the separate EU Regulations on air, ship, train and coach travel are covered in this book. We also include the provisions on online selling of tourist products and on price setting freedom for hoteliers in Belgium. Another important part is the regulation of tourist accommodation which is part of the regional laws in Belgium, and the international law that provides protection for passengers where they are injured during a flight or where their luggage is lost or damaged.

Travelling is by far a moment to enjoy and relax. In order to make sure that tourism companies, transportation operators and hotels, who are the main feature of mass tourism, provide such pleasure to travellers, a very comprehensive set of rules and regulations exists. This collection assembles only part of it and does not intend to be comprehensive. In first instance it serves the purpose to assist the Bachelor students of International Tourism & Leisure at Thomas More Hogeschool whom I have the pleasure to teach.

Marc Taeymans
September 2018