

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 services for tourists. 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 texts, cases and materials related to European 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 protecting the passengers of air, ship, train and coach travel are covered in this book, with a selection of the extensive case-law on the rights of air passengers in the event of cancellation or long delay of flights.

While the focus is on the law relevant to tourism emanating from the European Union, we also include some national law as an example of how it complements the action of the EU. The Belgian provisions on price setting freedom for hoteliers and the regulation of tourist accommodation are therefore included in this textbook. For the same reason the international law that provides protection for passengers where they are injured during a flight or where their luggage is lost or damaged, are part of the compendium.

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 a selection of it. In the first place it serves as a guide for students and scholars of International Tourism & Leisure Law. I am convinced it will also assist European travellers and tourism businesses at large and the legal community that looks after their interests.

Marc Taeymans
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