Concept note

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON TOURISM LAW OF THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

RATIONALE

The World Tourism Organization (hereinafter “UNWTO”) is the specialized agency of the United Nations in charge of promoting a responsible, sustainable, and accessible Tourism for all.

The COVID-19 crisis made clear the absence of an international legal framework to protect tourists rights during emergency situations, with millions of tourists stranded abroad, flights being cancelled, or being stuck at sea in international waters, in situations of absolute helplessness which, in some occasions, were only solved thanks to the good will of host countries.

Against this background, the UNWTO, at its 24th session of the General Assembly held in Madrid in November 2021, adopted by consensus the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, a comprehensive set of principles and recommendations for the protection of tourists in both emergency and non-emergency situations, view a view to serving as a frame of reference for the development and harmonization of tourism laws and regulations that may be adopted by States.

Now, two years after the adoption of the Code and with twenty-two countries having adhered thereto, the UNWTO, in collaboration with the Universities of Salamanca and La Sorbonne, is organizing the first International Seminar on Tourism Law dedicated to the International Code for the Protection of Tourists, addressing its achievements and challenges. This Seminar aims to assess the progress achieved, share best practices among countries, and establish clear, measurable and achievable objectives for a fairer and more balanced share of responsibilities among all tourism stakeholders in order to achieve the legal certainty that will actively contribute to tourism’s growth.

In addition, this Seminar aims to support the establishment of Tourism Law as an independent branch of the legal system. Indeed by analysing each of the chapters of the Code, the Seminar will stress out the key role of Tourism Law, both within the public and private sectors, and will also emphasise the need to grant Tourism Law with the recognition it objectively deserves, from all points of view.

To fulfil these purposes, the Seminar will feature a high level group of speakers, both academic and non-academic, who will highlight the importance of both the Code and Tourism Law as an independent branch through different panels, taking place in the unparalleled setting of the University of Salamanca, an institution with more than 600 years of history and which is an international reference for its legal studies in general and in the field of tourism law in particular. todos los prismas.
MAIN GOAL

As mentioned above, the main objective of the Seminar is to analyse and study the current situation of the Tourism Sector two years after the adoption of the International Code for the Protection of Tourists as an international legal instrument aiming to serve as a reference for the development and harmonization of national legislation and regulations in the various member states of the UNWTO. The Seminar also intends to identify and determine the objectives that should be pursued in the short, medium and long term to ensure the Code acts as a frame of reference in this normative field, as well as achieving the recognition of Tourism Law as a standalone branch of Law with sufficient substance to be considered at a particular and curricular level.

FORMAT AND DEVELOPMENT

The Seminar will be jointly organized with the University of Salamanca, an institution that will lend the use its facilities, more specifically the historic building and its emblematic lodging “Colegio Arzobispo Fonseca”.

It will be a two-days event. The first day, November 30, will be dedicated to the opening session, with the participation of national and international authorities, followed by a series of panels and round tables that will analyse best practices developed by the different States on the subject, as well as other presentations in which the content of different chapters of the Code will be discussed.

The second day, December 1st, will continue with discussions addressing the content of the Code and will conclude with the presentation of the Tourism Law Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, which UNWTO, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank, is currently developing, and which will be at the service of member states for the creation of an tool that will allow the sharing of essential aspects of Tourism Law and the generation of content on this subject.