



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

Fourth Deputy Mayor's Office
Ecology, Urban Planning and Mobility

GOVERNMENT MEASURE

BOOST TO THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS ON THE BARCELONA TOURISM MODEL

Barcelona, 20 July 2015

Background and current situation

Barcelona has become a global tourist destination and its tourism sector a key element in its economy, amounting to 14% of the city's GNP.

While it cannot be denied that tourist activity generates numerous benefits, it also causes a series of problems that have a negative effect on the resident population, access to housing and the quality of tourism in the city.

The excessive concentration of tourism in certain areas puts greater pressure on the territory, impoverishes urban spaces and quality of life (louder noise, greater cleaning and maintenance requirements for public spaces etc.) and disrupts peaceful coexistence etc.

Tourist activities have greater power when it comes to competing with other everyday uses, as tourists, in theory, have a greater purchasing power, given the exceptional, intense and temporary nature of their visits. This leads to dysfunctions in the property market, pushing up the price of housing and commercial premises. It makes daily life harder, transforming the activities of its surroundings, leading to the disappearance of local commerce and its replacement with tourist shops, and making access to housing all the more difficult.

Overcrowding causes problems within the tourist activity itself, making it less attractive – as an effect of theming – and less original or authentic. It promotes more mass tourism, which is lower in quality and less respectful of the surrounding area and ultimately brings more problems than benefits.

If we are to avoid such monoculture in tourism we will need to pay attention to the resident population and regulate the number of licences we give out for public-space activities and occupation to favour diversity; that way we can ensure the wealth that comes from tourism helps to create a real city rather than a theme park.

According to data from the Hotel Managers' Guild offered by the Barcelona Area of Tourism, 7.57 million tourists spent a night in hotel establishments in Barcelona in 2013, 80% of whom were foreign nationals, whereas the number of night stays (hotels and boarding houses) was 16.5 million.

According to data from Barcelona City Council's Department of Statistics, in 2013, the hotel offer included 603 establishments, with 69,128 accommodation places, most of which were hotels, apartment hotels and boarding house. Add to that, too, the number of licensed tourist-use apartments which, according to the data from the Special Tourist Accommodation Plan, totalled 9,606, located in 3,952 locations or buildings.

Analysis of the data from the last few years shows an 18.6% increase in the hotel offer during the 2008-2013 period.

Of all the city's districts, Ciutat Vella is home to 35.3% of the city's hotel establishments and 29.1% of places, practically the same percentages as those for the Eixample district, which has a much smaller area and mostly consists of old-town buildings.

Note too that Barcelona is the world's 4th largest cruise-ship port, boasting an average traffic of 3,000 people a day, who mostly visit the city's most iconic landmarks, expanding floating population numbers.

The growing size of the floating population created by the increase in the number of tourist accommodation establishments is leading to evident social fragmentation in the neighbourhoods affected, with problems relating to community life and obvious repercussions, not only on quality of life, access to housing and the environmental quality of urban spaces, but also on the quality of tourism itself.

Pressure on Ciutat Vella is especially acute as it is calculated that the floating population now represents over 25% of its population, which has been diminishing since 2006.

There are excessive concentrations in certain areas, to the point where any possible benefits are outweighed by the disruption and saturation found in central areas such as Ciutat Vella. Other areas, such as the Eixample district and the perimeter areas of Ciutat Vella, Poble Sec and Sant Antoni, have been going through a similar process and an increase in tourist activity is beginning to be seen in Gracia and Poblenou which could also lead to a saturation situation.

That is why the shock plan for the first few months of this term of office, in conjunction with other measures, provides for the immediate suspension of licences for opening tourist-type accommodation (hotels, boarding houses, hostels, apartment hotels, tourist apartments and tourist-use accommodation), which will enable an analysis to be made of the impact that these activities are having, along with student residences and youth hostels, on Barcelona, so the necessary urban-development planning can be prepared to properly regulate their implementation.

Background to regulating tourist activity in the city

Ciutat Vella is the District whose centrality and tourist-attraction capacity was the first to bear witness to problems of coexisting uses. This is why the District was the first to develop use plans and where, as well as regulating crowd-pulling public activities (bars, music bars, Restaurants, discotheques etc..) hotel activities were also regulated.

The *Special Plan for Premises for Public Use, Hotels and Other Activities in the Ciutat Vella District*, as approved on 17 June 2005, already showed the existence of two dynamics that did not always fit in with each other and which were often contradictory. On the one hand, a deterioration in the habitability conditions of housing and, on the other, Barcelona's rapid rise as a tourist destination for short stays, with the appearance of new forms of low-cost and low-category hotel establishments in so-called tourist apartments.

An analysis of this situation led to regulations for hotel establishments which enabled them to set up throughout the District, provided they were three stars or above, in an exclusive building that had not been used for accommodation on 1 January 2005.

As for tourist-use accommodation, such uses came to be banned although some were temporarily allowed where, on the date of the plan's entry into force, they had the corresponding authorisation from the Catalan regional government, a municipal urban-planning licence for change of use and/or, where appropriate, a municipal activity licence.

The following notion appeared five years later, also in the Ciutat Vella District, under the *Special Plan for premises for public use, hotels and other activities*, which was approved on 23 July 2010.

The Report on the document includes a reference to the Government Measure of the Full Municipal Council Meeting of 18 April 2008, which states that "A tourism model has to be made possible which ensures a balance between the city's clear commitment to boosting its attractiveness and international positioning and staying true to its identifying values and the residential life of its citizens". On the other hand, it is notable that while Ciutat Vella only represents 4.5% of the city's total area, it plays host to 55% of the boarding houses, 41% of the tourist-use accommodation and 35% of the hotel establishments in the city. The floating population percentage there is 8.55%, compared to the city's average of around 2.04%.

This Uses Plan of 2010 opted to divide the District into specific areas, grouping together homogeneous areas according to their land-plot structure, the origin of their streets and the types of buildings found there. More specifically, the possibility of bringing in new hotel activities was restricted to the following areas: ZE-1 (Drassanes, the Seafront, Pla de Palau, C/ Ample, Ciutadella, the Barceloneta seafront and the zone surrounding the Coastal Ring Road); ZE-5 (Rambla and Via Laietana, Plaça Reial and Portal de l'Àngel) and ZE-11 (Ring Roads, Ciutat Vella's northern and eastern perimeter areas, Av del Paral·lel, the Sant Pau and Sant Antoni ring roads, C/ Pelai and C/ Trafalgar). In addition, the possibility of new openings in these areas was made conditional on the closure of other existing establishments, to bring about a type of hotel where the percentage of space allocated to guest rooms did not exceed 55% of the total useful floor area, and their size was limited to 200 hotel places.

As regards tourist-use accommodation, the Uses Plan continued to prohibit new licences for tourist-use accommodation and only made exceptions for the little more than six hundred existing ones

where they were grouped into exclusive buildings, to keep any disruption of peaceful coexistence with local residents to a minimum.

The *Amended Special Plan for premises for public use, hotels and other activities in Ciutat Vella*, which received definitive approval on 24 July 2013, represented a change of direction in restrictions on tourist accommodation in Ciutat Vella, opening the regulations to new/extended hotels on the condition that the District's entire area would be reclaimed and the location of hotels liberalised in the ZE-11 Ring Road or "crosta" area.

In sum, the Uses Plan of 2013, which contains the regulations currently in force in the Ciutat Vella District, stipulates:

-In the case of the two areas, ZE-1 (Drassanes, Rambla del Raval, Ciutadella, Barceloneta), ZE-5A (Via Laietana) and ZE-5B (Rambla), new hotels may be introduced where licences are cancelled for the same number of places from any specific area in the District, a maximum number of 200 hotel places and a maximum proportion of the surface area used for guest rooms of 60%.

-For the inner areas, ZE-2A (Sant Pere), ZE-2B (Santa Caterina), ZE-2C (La Ribera), ZE-3 (Gòtic Nord), ZE-4 (Gòtic Sud), ZE-6 (Raval cultural), ZE-7 (Raval oest), ZE-8 (Raval Sud) and ZE 9 (Barceloneta), new hotels may be introduced where the same number of licences are cancelled for places from the same specific area, a maximum number of 100 hotel places and a 60% maximum proportion of the surface area used for guest rooms.

-For the ZE-11 (Ring roads) Area: direct introduction without need for reclaiming, in an Exclusive building, with a maximum number of 200 hotel places and a 60% maximum proportion of the surface area used for guest rooms.

As regards regulating tourist-use accommodation, the Uses Plan of 2013 upholds the previous version of the plan in relation to prohibiting new licences, as well as the possibility of groupings in exclusive buildings, though it decisively opts to end coexistence with housing use, as it provides for the phasing out of licences for tourist-use accommodation which, within a period of six years, have not been grouped together in whole buildings or in buildings with other uses that are not housing.

The *Amended General Metropolitan Plan for Protecting Barcelona's Architectural, Historical and Artistic Heritage*, which received final approval from the Urban-Planning Subcommittee of the Barcelona municipality at its meeting of 21 January 2015 (as published in the Official Journal of the Generalitat of Catalonia of 30 April 2015), states in Article 383, Section 9, that buildings listed with level B protection (cultural assets of local interest), may incorporate residential hotel uses, under a special comprehensive plan, despite any restrictions that uses plans may include, to promote the reclaiming and enhancement of these buildings

Over time, tourism-related problems have extended to other parts of the city, where they have led to an increase in demands from local residents for tourism to be regulated. As a result of all this, other Districts have launched processes for regulating public activities that attract large numbers of people where they have occasionally and partly included hotel activities.

Firstly, the *Special Plan for premises for public use, hotels and other activities in Barcelona's Specific ZE-5B "Rambla Area"*, which received final approval on 30 July 2014, states that the specific Rambla area, previously deemed a "receiver" area under the Uses Plan of 2013, has ultimately

become a saturated area and, as a result, the regulatory mechanisms for ensuring maximum restrictions on hotel-use incorporations have come into use.

Secondly, the *Special Plan for premises for public use, hotels and other activities in the neighbourhood of Poble Sec in the Sants-Montjuïc District*, which received initial approval from the Government Commission of 25 February 2015, features a proposal that entails prohibiting hotel uses in part of the area of application. As a consequence, the procedure was carried out at the same time as licences were suspended for hotels (H.1), apartment hotels (H.2), boarding houses (P.1), and tourist apartments (AT.1).

Thirdly, the *Special Plan for Premises for Public Use and other activities in the Gràcia District*, which received initial approval from the Government Commission of 25 September 2014, did not provide for the regulation of hotel activities though it did provide for the regulation of youth hostels and student residences (H.01), among others, and, consequently, suspended the resulting specific urban-development plans for part of the District, the urban-planning management projects and granting of licences for and/or communiqués on these uses. Later on, the Government Commission of 11 March 2015 suspended the granting of licences for and/or communiques on the establishment or extension of hotels (H.1), apartment hotels (H.2), boarding houses (P.1), and tourist apartments (AT.1), as well as the granting of preliminary works licences and communiqués relating to such activities.

Finally, the *Special Urban-Development Plan for Regulating tourist-use accommodation in Barcelona*, which was initially approved through an agreement with the Government Commission of 22 October 2014, proposes comprehensive regulation for the entire municipality, based on strict containment criteria, with mechanisms for concentrating HUTs in entire buildings or buildings that do not contain housing, which is coordinated through a double-density mechanism for blocks and areas that are homogeneous. As a result, the activities for establishing and/or extending tourist-use accommodation are currently suspended in the entire territorial area of the Barcelona municipality.

Boost to the participation process on Barcelona's tourism model

Tourism is one of this city's main assets, which is why it is a collective responsibility to look after it and make it sustainable over time. It is a government priority to create order and govern tourism democratically, to redistribute its benefits as much as possible throughout the city, seeking to accommodate Tourism in the city and attempting to minimise its negative impact.

There has been an enormous growth in tourism in recent times, though this has not been sufficiently accompanied by planning and collective debate, something that has led to serious imbalances. We need to stop, reflect and debate, so we can make specific proposals, to deliver a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated response, in contrast to the partial, piecemeal solutions in the tourism sector that have been considered so far.

As a preliminary step towards establishing such a plan, the municipal government has agreed to the *Suspended Processing of Licences for Tourist-Accommodation Establishments, Student Residences and Youth Hostels* with the aim of analysing the impact of activities aimed at creating tourist accommodation in all its forms (hotels, apartment hotels, tourist apartments, boarding houses, hostels and tourist-use accommodation) and also student residences and youth hostels in Barcelona.

The goal is to achieve a snapshot of the stock of tourist accommodation in the city which enables an assessment and diagnosis of the existing offer and the economic and social impact that it has on access to housing, the occupation of public spaces, mobility, diversity of uses and waste production and management.

Following the suspension, a participatory process will now start with all the players involved in the tourist sector and the city, to prepare the special plan, where spaces will be established for promoting debate and dialogue.

This process will establish the criteria for a comprehensive management of accommodation and tourism to enable Barcelona to preserve its quality as a tourist destination while ensuring such activity does not represent a source of conflict with the city's residents.

If this management model is to be drawn up, it will have to take account of initiatives that promote a fair distribution of the benefits of tourism in 73 of the city's neighbourhoods, as well as measures for relieving congestion in areas subject to greater environmental and social pressure. Work will also be carried out to keep the distinctive features intact that give the city its unique character, such as the individual identity of each Neighbourhood and local commerce.

The goal behind this is to start a process of reflection and participation for debating and defining Barcelona's Tourism Model, with three elements:

Suspended processing of tourist-accommodation, Student-residence and youth-hostel licences

The municipal aim is to analyse the impact of activities aimed at creating tourist accommodation in all its forms (hotels, apartment hotels, tourist apartments, boarding houses, hostels and tourist-use accommodation) and also student residences and youth hostels throughout Barcelona, to bring about

a public participatory process and prepare the urban-development planning needed to properly regulate its implementation.

This suspension has taken effect throughout the city and in all types of tourist accommodation, to prevent dysfunctions in the tourist and property sector that can lead to an increase in tourist accommodation in areas that are currently unprotected.

The initiative falls within the framework of possibilities provided for under current legislation, namely, Legislative Decree 1/2010, of 3 August, approving the consolidated text of the Urban Planning Act, in the sense that for the study on the formation or reform of the urban-development planning figures, provision is made for acting preventively with the suspension of licences, specific resulting planning and urban-planning management:

Similarly, as regards the term, Article 74(1) of TRLUC stipulates that “The effects of suspending processes and licences for specific areas cannot last more than one year in cases governed under Section 1 of Article 73 (···)”.

Notwithstanding the above, it should be noted that in adopting this preventive suspension measure several situations come into play:

–On the one hand, areas where it is not possible for any agreement to be adopted on suspending certain activities, in cases where they have already been suspended, within a period of three years since the effects of the previous suspension expired. In accordance with Article 74(2) of the TRLUC.

–On the other hand, areas where, under urban-development plans that are under way, action has been taken as a precaution and/or at the same as the initial approval, to suspend processes and licences or communiques on the very activities the intervention is intended to affect.

The specific situations that need to be considered, therefore, are the ones that are described below:

- a) The Special Urban-Development Plan for regulating tourist-use accommodation in Barcelona, which was initially approved through an agreement with the Government Commission of 22 October, 2014, and published in the Official Barcelona Province Gazette of 24 October 2014 and in the newspaper, La Vanguardia, of 28 October 2014, extended the suspensions of communiqués prior to the start of activities for establishing and/or extending Tourist-Use Accommodation agreed to by each of the Government Commissions during the meetings of 30 April 2014 and 10 September 2014, and published, respectively, in the Official Barcelona Provincial Gazette of 2 May 2014 and 12 September 2014. It also extended the suspension of communiqués prior to the start of activities for establishing and/or extending Tourist-Use Accommodation in the rest of the city.

As a result, HUT activity is currently suspended throughout the municipality of Barcelona, with different temporary conditions for various areas, depending on when the agreement to suspend was reached.

- b) The Special Plan for premises for public use, hotels and other activities in Barcelona's specific ZE-5B “Rambla Area”, which was given final approval on 19 December 2014,

and published in the Official Barcelona Province Gazette and in the newspaper La Vanguardia of 22 January 2015, was processed with the suspension of licences for Hotels (H.1), Apartments Hotels (H.2) and Boarding Houses (P.1.1). The effects of this suspension came to an end with the plan's implementation, but the provisions of Article 74(2) of the TRLUC began to apply, to the extent that once the effects of the agreement to suspend have ended, it may not be adopted again, for the same area and purpose, until a period of three years has lapsed as from the date when the effects came to an end.

As a result, licences have not been suspended in the area corresponding to the specific ZE-5B "Rambla Area" for hotels, apartment hotels, boarding houses or hostels, as the above-mentioned three-year term has not lapsed since the end of the previous suspension.

It should similarly be stated once again that the planning approved in this area: a) does not allow brothel (P.1.2) or tourist-apartment activities (AT.1) in the Rambla area; b) with regard to accepted hotel, hotel-apartment, hostel and boarding house, student-resident and youth-hostel uses, these must also satisfy the area-density condition and the density condition for hotel-use places, which in practice involves 0 growth in this area both in the number of establishments and available places.

In this area, then, the only suspensions have been for hostels, student residents and tourist apartments.

- c) The Special Plan for Premises for Public Use, Hotels and Other Activities in the Poble Sec neighbourhood in the Sants-Montjuïc District, which received initial approval from the Government Commission of 25 February 2015, and which was published in the Official Barcelona Province Gazette of 27 February 2015 and in the newspaper La Vanguardia of 28 February 2015, agreed simultaneously to suspend the awarding of licences and/or comunicués and other related municipal authorisations established by the sector's legislation, for installing or extending (among other things) hotels (H.1), apartment hotels (H.2), boarding houses (P.1), and tourist apartments (AT.1), as well as the awarding of licences and/or comunicués and other related municipal authorisations established by the sector's legislation relating to these activities.

As a result, in the territorial area corresponding to this plan, the above-mentioned activities (hotels, apartment hotels, boarding houses and tourist apartments) have already been suspended, under the temporary conditions resulting from the procedure itself, in other words, up to a maximum period of two years from the day following the date the adoption of the suspension agreement was published, and therefore up to 28 February, 2017.

So, the only licences that have been suspended are the ones for student residents and youth hostels.

- d) The Special Plan for Premises for Public Use and other activities in the Gràcia District, which received initial approval under an agreement from the Government Commission at the meeting of 25 September 2014, and which was published in the Official Barcelona Province Gazette and in the newspaper La Vanguardia, in both cases, on 26 September 2014, suspended the processing, in the central area of Vila de Gràcia, Camp del Grassot and surrounding area of Parc Güell, of specific resulting urban-development plans and urban-planning management projects and the granting of licences and/or

communiqués and other related municipal authorisations established by the sector's legislation, for the establishment or extension of various activities, including those of Youth Hostels and Students Residents (section H.01). It excluded the processing of plans and/or management projects and the granting of licences and/or communiqués presented before the adoption of the suspension agreement and the awarding of licences and/or communiqués and other related municipal authorisations established by the sector's legislation which were requested in the execution of resulting urban-development planning instruments in progress at the time the agreement was adopted.

Later on, the Government Commission of 11 March 2015 agreed to suspend the processing, in the central area of Vila de Gràcia, under Article 73(1) of the TRLUC, of resulting specific urban-development plans and urban-planning management projects, and the awarding of licences and/or communiqués and other related municipal authorisations established by the sector's legislation, for establishing or extending the following activities: H.1. Hotels, H.2 Apartment hotels, P.1 Boarding Houses, AT.1 Tourist Apartments. It likewise suspended the granting of preliminary works licences and communiqués relating to such activities, and it excluded from that suspension both requests for processing plans and/or management projects and the awarding of licences and/or communiqués before the suspension came into force, and also the awarding of licences and/or communiqués and other Municipal authorisations requested in the execution of resulting urban-development planning instruments, in progress at the time the suspension agreement was adopted.

As a result, therefore, the following activities have been suspended in the central area of Vila de Gràcia : hotels, apartment hotels, boarding houses and hostels and tourist apartments. Other suspended activities in Vila de Gràcia, Camp del Grassot and the area surrounding Parc Güell include those relating to youth hostels and student residences. The difference, yet again, is temporal in nature, given that the suspensions adopted with initial approval (youth hostels and student residences) will end, at the latest, on 26 September 2016; and any suspensions adopted subsequent to the previous optional suspension (hotels, apartment hotels , tourist apartments and boarding houses) will end, by the latest, on 18 March 2016.

Therefore only the following have been suspended: a) Activities relating to hotels, apartment hotels, boarding houses, hostels and tourist apartments, in the area of the Gràcia District, except for the central area of Vila de Gràcia; b) Activities relating to youth hostels and student residences, in the area of the Gràcia District, except for the central area of Vila de Gràcia, Camp del Grassot and the area surrounding Parc Güell.

Drafting the Special Tourist Accommodation Regulation Plan.

The Special Tourist Accommodation Regulation Plan will set out the criteria for properly regulating the establishment of tourist accommodation, to preserve Barcelona's quality as a tourist destination while ensuring such activities do not cause any type of conflict with the city's local residents. The aim is to create a regulatory framework that protects tourism, from the perspective of both visitors and city residents. Barcelona needs to make the most of this important source of wealth that comes with tourism – the equivalent of around 14% of the city's GNP – but we have to make this activity compatible with the daily lives of citizens and prevent it from causing negative externalities such as

problems with community life, changes to the social and economic fabric of entire neighbourhoods and the trivialisation or saturation of the urban landscape.

If we are to draft this document, which will be discussed and debated within the framework of the City and Tourism Council, we will have to bear in mind the experiences of other European tourist cities and carry out studies to obtain a snapshot of the stock of tourist accommodation in the city.

The expectation is to have an initial proposal for the Special Tourist Accommodation Regulation Plan in place during the first quarter of 2016.

City and Tourism Council

Given the importance and effects of tourist activities, we need to build a permanent space for dialogue and work with all citizens, which is why developing public participatory structures is one of the most immediate challenges for tourism planning and management policies.

The *Barcelona Strategic Tourism Plan for 2010-2015* already set out the need to create a City and Tourism Council, by establishing a broad space for shared discussion, debate and reflection between all the players involved, to have an large space for participating in, comparing, monitoring and assessing the Plan's key points.

According to the City Council's declaration on tourism, approved on 10 November 2014, «an issue as important and significant as this has to be thoroughly addressed and debated among the players involved: union, neighbourhood and business representatives, not only from the hotel sector but also the small trade sector. All the Council's political forces are likewise under a duty to work together to find solutions here».

Subsequently, the *Terms and Conditions for a Local Agreement for Managing and Promoting a Responsible and Sustainable Tourism* (April 2015), once again insisted on the need to “create participatory work frameworks among the various players involved”.

This need is still valid. And given the importance of municipal action in developing tourist policies and the aim to include the public in the governing of tourist activities, public participation has to be put forward as a priority action.

Therefore:

- The proposal is to create, in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Regulations governing Public Participation, the City and Tourism Council, as a sectoral participatory body of Barcelona City Council in the field of tourism policies and strategies in the city.

- The objectives of this Council will include aspects such as advising on and participating in tourism-related strategic planning, proposing measures for action, promoting knowledge of tourist activity and its effects, evaluating the management and promotion of tourist activities and the capacity to issue reports on any aspects that are of relevance to tourism and its sustainability.

- The Council's composition will have to satisfy the criteria of mainstreaming and maximum representation.

Updating Barcelona's Strategic Tourism Plan

The *Barcelona Strategic Tourism Plan for 2010-2015* stemmed from a debate involving the public and associations, and considered responses to a model that was having an impact on the city, bearing in mind that concentrations of visitors in certain areas could hardly be compared with those of other cities.

These responses included:

- Deconcentration of tourist activity in the territory
- A new management of tourism within the framework of the city and its surrounding area
- Encouraging involvement from society and institutions
- Leadership and improving the competitiveness of the destination.

The public debate on the effects of tourism on the city is presently more alive than ever. It is here that the document entitled *Terms and Conditions for a Local Agreement for Managing and Promoting a Responsible and Sustainable Tourism*, cited above, was seen as a process for participatory reflection, aimed at responding to the general interest and identifying the key challenges that the city will have to tackle over the coming years:

- Smart management and distribution of tourist flows in the city and territory
- Reducing the negative impact that tourism has on the city
- Ordering, regulating and controlling tourist activities and anti-social attitudes
- Defining a new tourism governance and funding model.
- Boosting Barcelona's identity and uniqueness as a sustainable, competitive and excellent destination
- A fairer, more cross-cutting distribution of the benefits that tourism generates
- Raising awareness of the benefits of tourism and encouraging public involvement.

Hence the proposal for:

- Updating Barcelona's Strategic Tourism Plan for a new period 2016-2020.
- Assessing the incorporation of updated amendments to the Strategic Tourism Plan for 2010-2015, so work can be carried out on updating it.
- It will be updated through participation, by seeking political and local-resident consensus, and it will take account of the work carried out in the *Terms and Conditions for a Local Agreement for Managing and Promoting a Responsible and Sustainable tourism*.
- The aim is for tourism planning, promotion and management to make Barcelona an attractive city for visitors without this resulting in an imbalance in citizen dynamics, within the framework of sustainable and responsible tourism.
- The government will be presenting an evaluation, within a three-month period, of the implementation of the Action Plan provided for under the *Strategic Barcelona Tourism Plan for 2010-2015* and a proposal for implementing the process for its revision and updating, as well as its implementation calendar. This will not go beyond the end of 2016.

Tax on Stays in Tourist Establishments (IEET)

This tax represents a financial return from tourists to the destination's community and represents progress in ensuring their responsible participation in covering the costs of tourism.

Even so, the restrictions established under *Act 5/2012, of 20 March, on tax, financial and administrative measures and on creating the tax on stays in tourist establishments*, make it impossible for Barcelona, with the share it receives of the revenue, to provide proportional compensation for the effects of the tourism it deals with.

This gap had already been expressed in several government-body agreements during the last term of office:

–on 17 September 2014, the Commission for Economy, Enterprise and Employment agreed unanimously: “To call on the Catalan regional government to amend the Tax on Stays at Tourist Establishments, as follows: - 100% of the revenue collected from the tax on tourist establishments in each municipality will go to the local authority. - The destination of these resources will be decided by the corresponding local authority to compensate for the negative externalities created by tourism or other activities. - Call on the municipal government and Mayor Trias to turn to municipal organisations, the Catalan Federation of Municipalities and the Catalan Association of Municipalities, to work together in leading this demand”.

–The Full City Council Meeting of 28 November 2014 gave its approval, without any vote against, “to call on the municipal government to allocate one hundred percent of the revenues from the Tourist tax that fall to the City Council to measures for improving community life and public spaces, promoting the quality of life of citizens, guaranteeing the physical and communication accessibility of facilities, public transport and infrastructures, and decentralising tourist pressure.”

–The Commission for Economy, Enterprise and Employment of 18 March 2015, approved “1.) Rejecting the agreement that the municipal government and Catalan regional government had entered into, under which Barcelona would receive 48% of the tourist tax collected in the city, as it is completely insufficient. 2. Call on the Mayor of Barcelona to continue negotiating with the Catalan regional government to ensure the allocation of all (100%) of the revenue collected by the city's tourist tax. 3) Specifying the allocation of this revenue to the new destination agreed to, referring to the protection, preservation and recovery of tourist resources and their impact on the the city's neighbourhoods.”

Given this background, the Full Council is calling on the government to carry out the necessary actions to comply with the above-mentioned agreements.

Studying the drive for measures to tackle illegal tourist accommodation

The municipal government is reviewing all initiatives aimed at inspecting illegal tourist accommodation, so it can make a proposal to increase efficiency and effectiveness in detecting illegal tourist accommodation.