



Jean Marie BRETON (2016)
Droit et politique du tourisme
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As tourism is becoming ever more complex through a higher flow of people, contractual undertakings and legal approaches are necessary for its proper functioning. Due to its complexity which covers many areas such as travel agencies, transportation regulations, sustainability of the tourist activity and the fact that many actors are involved into its unfolding, so are the legal and political approaches that need to be taken into consideration, therefore an optimal jurisprudence is indispensable for its clarification and application.

The legal framework for the unfolding of tourist activity is approached in the case of France with the most updated reforms and legal acts, such as law and orders operational since 2015 related to many areas from this smokeless industry. The book that meets all these ends and develops topics related to policies and laws of tourism is entitled *Droit et politique du tourisme* and is written by the Emerite Professor Jean-Marie Breton of the University of the Antilles (Guadeloupe), a consulting member of the Overseas Academy of Science.

The seminal work is a considerable step forward in the field of tourism-related policies and laws, and covers a wide range of well-referenced topics which in the first part refers to the framework and foundations of tourism with its dichotomy related to classical and sustainable tourism; over the second and third parts of the book it approaches the public and private actors involved in the deployment of the tourist activity; the fourth part approaches the activities and facilities of tourism; the fifth part compiles the contractual management of tourism, so that in the last part of the book it tackles issues related to the financial management and fiscality in tourism. Over the seven hundred pages of the book, the approached topics are illustrated by examples, prompts with term clarification and case study illustrations.

The legal aspect under which tourism business takes place is mandatory for a good functioning and France is not lagging behind in this aspect as there are many regulatory measures, laws and acts, all synthesized in the book. Just to mention a few, the policies concerning the granting of labels recognized by the state, such as quality tourism; the nicest detours of France; world heritage; the most beautiful villages in France; cities of art and history; grand sites of France; blue flag; friendly villages for children, etc. The books further on dwells on public and private bodies and their policies involved in the well-functioning of tourism-related activities in France, illustrated in the book within well-organized chapters and subchapters.

The institutional framework of the overseas territories of France (Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique and Reunion) and their regional policies in terms of tourism are also presented. Among many, one that is debated in the text refers to rendering some competences so as to boost the overseas local tourism development in the region. Certain overseas Caribbean collectivities such as Saint Martin and Saint Bartholomy

(formerly part of the Guadeloupe archipelago regional collectivity) gained a certain political and administrative autonomy since the referendum of 15 June 2007, nonetheless they still abide by the same tourism-related policies and laws (pp. 286). Local tourism in these territories revolves a lot around cruising and ecotourism. Ecotourism is an up-to-date issue which targets a collaborative relationship between local communities, tourism stakeholders and resource protectors for the preservation of natural areas meant to support regional development (pp. 61).

Within the regional development policies, a strategic plan followed by a certain regional destination can give it advantage over another thus capitalizing its resource in a sustainable manner over the short, medium and long term according to the region's objectives. The tools to put the regions' goals in practice (including financially) are foreseen by laws such: i.e. the distribution of competences (of Dec 1992) in the field of tourism, the financial policies (Schema regional de development du tourisme et des loisirs) as well as institutional bodies such as the regional tourism committees, set up as early as 1942 and 1943 by the Government of Vichy (pp. 275).

The book covers exhaustively the different facets of French and communitarian laws and policies of tourism with its institutional tools and normative acts thus creating a panorama of all the manifestations and mutations within the modern and contemporary tourism-driven society.

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