

***DANTE - Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Nachhaltige TourismusEntwicklung***

and

***TEN - Third World Tourism European Ecumenical Network***

c/o EED-TOURISM WATCH

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**Mr Kofi Annan**

Secretary-General of the United Nations

United Nations

New York, NY 10017

UNITED STATES

**Mr. Nitin Desai**

Secretary-General for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)

Johannesburg Summit Secretariat

Division for Sustainable Development

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Two United Nations Plaza, DC2-2220

New York, NY 10017

UNITED STATES

**Open Letter on the WSSD negotiations on tourism**

1<sup>st</sup> July, 2002

Dear Mr Annan and Mr Desai,

On the occasion of the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), we seek your leadership in stimulating a frank and honest review of progress achieved in the implementation of the *International Work Programme on Tourism and Sustainable Development* as agreed upon at the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1999 in New York.

As European NGOs working on tourism from an environmental and developmental perspective, we welcome the decision to include a paragraph on tourism in the *Draft Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, as taken at the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Preparatory Committee for the WSSD in Bali, Indonesia (Paragraph 41 in the Advance Unedited Text of 12th June, 2002). We regret, however, that this paragraph has been elaborated without consultation of NGOs specialised in tourism, and without adequate reference to the CSD Work Programme mentioned above. We note with great concern that the conditions under which tourism is promoted are by no means sufficiently conducive to sustainable development.

We call upon the WSSD to act in a manner consistent with the *International Work Programme on Tourism and Sustainable Development*, and to ensure that tourism is effectively taken into account as a cross-cutting issue. For your kind consideration, we submit our „Rio+10: Red Card for Tourism?“ as a comprehensive document on the sustainability requirements in tourism. This document has already provided valuable input to the World Ecotourism Summit in May 2002 in Quebec, Canada.

With reference to the *Draft Plan of Implementation*, we appeal to you

- that the free trade agenda be dropped if the WSSD is to deliver any positive outcomes. In particular, the promotion of foreign direct investment (FDI) must be replaced by the demand to enhance participatory tourism development. There is no evidence that FDI promotes the sustainability of development. Rather, the opposite is true, as control over local resources and decision-making is taken away from local people.
- to ensure the active and informed participation of civil society, and especially local and indigenous communities and disadvantaged groups of the population, in any decision-making and implementation relating to tourism – including the formulation of the *Plan of Implementation* to be adopted at the WSSD. To promote a truly open and honest dialogue involving all relevant stakeholders, the multistakeholder approach of CSD 7 should be taken up and developed further.
- to specify the conditions under which tourism may contribute to poverty eradication and to formulate appropriate strategies in this regard, in co-operation with indigenous and local communities and NGOs.

- to call for the integration of tourism into National Strategies for Sustainable Development, taking full account of the cross-cutting nature of tourism and its positive and negative impacts. As the contentious debate on the "International Year of Ecotourism" has shown, it is not the promotion of a problematic niche market that is needed, but a comprehensive reorientation of the tourism industry.
- to this end, to include tourism in all fields of action as appropriate, including consumption and production, taking account of the need to influence consumer behaviour through information, education and codes of conduct for tourists, and climate change, urging for the effective reduction of aircraft emissions which are known to have contributed significantly to global warming, but have largely remained unaddressed.

We trust that you will do your best to ensure that the outcome of WSSD will not fall behind the CSD Work Programme and thus represent a major setback in the strive for sustainability in relation to tourism. We would welcome your decision to put tourism as a major issue of global concern back on the UN agenda for sustainable development, should WSSD fail to do so in a comprehensive manner.

Respectfully,

on behalf of  
**DANTE - Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft für  
 nachhaltige Tourismusentwicklung  
 (German NGO Network for Sustainable  
 Tourism Development)**



Manfred Pils  
 (International Friends of Nature, Vienna, Austria)

on behalf of  
**TEN - Third World Tourism  
 European Ecumenical Net**



Heinz Fuchs  
 (TOURISM WATCH – EED, Bonn, Germany)

Encl. DANTE publication "Rio+10: Red Card for Tourism?"

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Mr Francesco Frangiali, Secretary-General, World Tourism Organization (WTO)  
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### List of signatories

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2. Associazione RAM, San Rocco di Camogli, Italy
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4. DART - Dortmunder Arbeitskreis Raumplanung und Tourismus, Dortmund, Germany
5. E.T.E. – Ecological Tourism in Europe, Bonn, Germany
6. FernWeh - Tourism Review / iz3w-Third World Information Centre, Freiburg, Germany
7. Gemeinsamer Arbeitskreis für Tourismus und Ethnologie, Hamburg, Germany
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9. International Friends of Nature, Vienna, Austria
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11. KATE - Centre for Ecology & Development, Stuttgart, Germany
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