

NEGATIVE EU REACTION TO AMERICAN TOURISM TAX



EU plans to retaliate against a tourist fee imposed by Americans. The idea of the fee being introduced to promote tourism has been met with extreme skepticism and many see it as an unfair way of squeezing money out of tourists.

The USA is a nation, which has been strongly hit by the negative effects of terrorism, leading to much stricter border and airport checks. All this negativity has led to decreasing numbers of incoming tourists to the USA and a sharp fall in the country's reputation. **The Americans now seem intent on deepening their problems by introducing a tax for tourists, merely for the privilege of being on American soil.**

Each tourist visiting the country, who has not been subject to the financial restraints of visa fees will have to pay an extra \$10 for merely existing within the borders of the USA. The ploy of American tourist organisations is to claim that the fee proves the great worth that visiting the US has. This claim has been met with not only ridicule, yet also a certain degree of anger.

It has been compared to a situation whereby a plush restaurant charges a fee for sitting down - in a word - cheeky.

One should not forget that tourism has been on the increase throughout the USA since the horror of the 9.11 attacks in 2001. 58 million people went to America from abroad last year and the tourist sector is on an admittedly slow yet sure road to recovery. **The tax is utterly unnecessary and the reaction of the EU has been uncompromising.** EU officials have stated that there may not be any double standards between the two entities. If Americans continue to impose a tourist tax on EU citizens, then Americans will receive the same treatment on this side of the Atlantic.

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