

LEGAL PROTECTION OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS FROM DIFFERENT FORMS OF ENDANGEREMENT

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Abstract

Tourism is a very significant branch to the development of every state. The Republic of Serbia is a well-known tourist destination which accumulates significant profit from this business. In accordance with the principle of sustainable tourism development, in addition to the natural beauties our country has at its disposal, it will be necessary to invest in new tourist and logistical content in order to enrich this form of business, improve security, legal protection and ensure greater profitability. In order for tourism to make a successful contribution to the development of a country, it is necessary to, among other things, provide adequate legal protection of tourist destinations from various forms of endangerment. In this respect, international standards have been established which the Republic of Serbia has incorporated into its legislation. In this paper, we will look into specific legal solutions from Serbian legislation whose implementation significantly improves the protection of the environment and the development of tourist destinations in the Republic of Serbia.

Key Words: *tourism, legal protection, environment, terrorism, incriminations, laws*

JEL Classification: *K10, K14, K32*

Introduction

From an economic point of view, it is easy to see that tourism represents a significant factor in the formation of a country's gross domestic product and is often characterized as an invisible form of export for national economies. It can be said that tourism experienced the most dynamic growth in the period after the Second World War. Thanks to the cultural progress and the growth of workers' rights, which resulted in a shortening

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of working hours and an increase in leisure time, the conditions for organized trips were acquired. In addition, through certain forms of liberalization, in terms of reducing administrative barriers to crossing borders, conditions were created for conceiving one of the most intensive economic branches of the present day. Taking into consideration a rather narrow temporal interval of the last twenty years, there has been a doubling of the amount of international travel. If we take into consideration a longer period of time, the aforementioned expansion has been, as would be expected, significantly higher. In the period from the 1990's until today, there has been an almost triple growth in international tourism trends. Based on research conducted by relevant international organizations, predictions have been made of 35% international tourism growth in the following ten-year period (Visa, 2017).

Some of the main threats to the development of the tourism industry are sociological and security. The expansion of certain tourist destinations often involves a rise in crime rates within these locations. However, the possibility of terrorist attacks is becoming the most significant risk factor for the global tourism industry (Lečić & Skakavac, 2018). It should not be ignored that in contemporary times and tourism, some important tourist destinations, in specific parts of the world, have been targeted by extreme terrorist organizations with the aim of disrupting life, even at tourist locations. "Terrorist attacks affect the security reputation of tourist destinations and the sowing of fear among potential tourists. A fear of terrorist activities can, in a very serious manner, affect economic trends within the domain of supply and demand on the international tourist market. The mentioned tendencies, in the field of digression of tourist activities, were also noticed on the most recent examples of well-known tourist destinations such as Turkey, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, where the so-called Arab spring, or a war for democracy, led to a change to the ruling party and authoritarian regimes, the epilogue being long-term political instability, anarchy, chaos and civil wars that have, as the final outcome, had an even stronger strengthening of Islam and those structures that advocate the application of Sharia law" (Skakavac & Skakavac, 2017,p.144).

Terrorism is not the only criminological factor that threatens tourism. Other forms of criminal behavior, such as violence, theft, robbery, namely, all forms of delinquent behavior that disturb the peace, safety and tranquility of tourists are also affected by a negative connotation. In addition, every transition produces certain, positive or negative

consequences for the individual, his family, and society as a whole. Among the negative characteristics of transitional processes is certainly criminality, which in such circumstances gets new forms, new forms of appearance and has a tendency to increase (Skakavac, 2015).

However, another type of negative social behavior can significantly affect tourism as an important economic and profitable branch in the development of a country. This is the field of ecology, the protection of nature and the environment and the attitude towards it, the disposal of radioactive and other waste, which is a feature of some contemporary forms of activity performed by some mafia organizations in the world. Unfortunately, organized crime does not choose the means to profit, even though it threatens the security of people and the environment on a large scale.

In order to protect society from all forms of ecological endangerment, especially in tourist-important destinations, adequate statutory regulations are required to provide legal protection. This is precisely what the author will attempt to illustrate in this paper, some important statutory regulations which provide ecological protection against all forms of endangerment, to both tourist destinations and tourism in general.

Impact of terrorist acts on tourist effects

An important factor in establishing a mutual correlation between tourism and terrorism is the process of globalization. Globalization contributes to the demolition of human barriers but also facilitates the strategic and operational implementation of terrorist activities. One of the key events marking the beginning of a new era in the fight against international terrorism was the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center in New York. This attack had a high level of influence on tourism movements within the United States (Skakavac & Skakavac, 2017). A similar situation occurred in France, where the "doctrine of shelter" and neutral politics proved unsuccessful and counterproductive, as seen from the waves of related terrorist attacks that afflicted this country in early 2015 (Lečić, 2015).

Tourists' fear, when traveling to a specific tourist destination, can be descriptively expressed in two ways. Tourists fear that they may be the victims of an organized terrorist attack during an international trip if they are from an area which is involved in hostile actions towards the country

of their stay. On the other hand, they also fear that they may be the victims of a terrorist attack by simply being at the wrong place at the wrong time, without any preconceived notions about the relationship between the country of residence and the country of visit. The mentioned distinction can be extremely significant as it can define the potential choice of a future tourist destination. In some countries, such as Egypt and Tunisia, tourist destinations are highly targeted by militant Islamic groups. The abovementioned terrorist organizations in particular valorize attacks on those sites that are known to be the destination of choice of a large number of tourists from NATO countries (especially those who participated in operations against Syria and Iraq) (Lečić & Skakavac, 2018).

Contemporary waste management problems - challenges, risks, or threats

Waste management, at a global level, is a very complex, responsible and profitable activity. It is an activity that can have negative consequences for the economic security of a local community in one or more municipalities, which can in turn have a harmful effect on human health, food safety, the security of human material goods, and on the safety of a community and the environment. Developed countries view this problem in its totality, scientifically, professionally and practically. In this closed, interactive circle, efforts are made at reaching the most acceptable solutions for the environment, and for the preservation of human health and material assets, while finding solutions to daily challenges posed by the generation and management of waste.

A fact unknown to the public in developing countries, Serbia being among them, is that the interest of global companies and donors has increased in those countries in the past decade (Marković, 2006). The practice of developed countries has shown all the complexity of waste management, from benefits and various challenges, to risks, threats and harmful consequences for human health and the environment. Scientific and expert findings from the waste management cycle, in some European countries, also point to many criminal actions against the environment, conducted illicitly to great material benefit. These findings indicate that numerous companies are involved in economic crime, the criminal activity of transnational waste trade, organized crime and eco-crimination (Muti, 2005).

Instead of the expected systemic responses to the ever-increasing quantities and types of waste, a new form of business has emerged before the public whose protagonists are, none other than, the Italian mafia (Muti, 2005). The current claims are that the Campania region has the greatest number of illegal landfills, in all of Italy, and that nuclear waste is deposited in some of them (Bošković & Skakavac, 2009). The city of Naples is a major tourist center in the south of Italy, hosting a large number of tourists from all parts of the world on an annual basis. However, since the Camorra mafia organization took over waste management in the Campania region of Naples in 1990, it has had disastrous effects for the environment and the health of the local population. The map below shows the extent of the disposal of various types of waste in the wider area of the city of Naples. This has enabled the Camorra to make tremendous profits (Skakavac, 2016)

Picture 1: A map of Campania with the location of illegal landfills



Source: Skakavac, Z., (2016). *Mafija - tradicionalni i savremeni fenomen*, Monography, Fakultet za pravne i poslovne studije dr Lazar Vrkatić, Novi Sad.

For the sake of illustration, an Italian mafia leader stated, before an investigative court in Naples, on the occasion of the Mafia's well-known interest in waste: "For us, garbage is gold." Until 1994, the mafia controlled the entire garbage collection cycle, the assessment being that the Mafia's involvement in environmental crime grossed them about six billion euros (\$ 8.8 billion) annually. The Mafia's interest in garbage is

not limited to household waste but to controlling the entire disposal cycle as well as landfills. Thus, the Camorra has been, for years, filling up landfills not only with household waste but industrial waste as well, shipped in from all over Italy as well as beyond. The transport of this waste is one of the most profitable Mafia activities which, in terms of profit, exceeds profit from drug trafficking. That is the reason why the Camorra had been involved in purchasing land, in the wider region of Naples, at low prices from owners they had previously intimidated only to sell that same land, later and for a considerable profit, to companies that deal with the disposal of waste in landfills. Toxic nuclear and industrial radioactive waste, which the Italian mafia mainly imported from Germany and illegally buried underground, is responsible for the increased rate of cancer in the south of Italy. The Italian Senate explored the link between buried polluters and **50 percent more tumors among residents of the villages around Naples. Doctors first noticed an increase in the number of cancer patients during the 1990s** (Skakavac, 2016).

The global companies and donator in direct contact offer "assistance" through donations and international loans, developing feasibility studies for projects and the transfer of technologies for the construction of waste incinerators. In most cases, this starts with estimates and serious reports on the state of waste management in a particular country. Reports (the World Bank and Republic of Serbia - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Protection, 2003) usually estimate that the subject waste management system is in a state of decay and that everything needs to be changed, and that a new system needs to be established from the law to the construction of a treatment and disposal facility. In this manner, the country is in fact handed over to interested foreign companies that will quickly cover Serbia with various types of waste, including radioactive and nuclear, and which will, in the long run, cause serious damage to human health, endangering the flora and fauna and inflicting irreparable damage. This also targets important tourist destinations which are otherwise suitable for the mentioned criminal activities.

In order to protect society from all forms of ecological endangerment, especially in tourist-important destinations, adequate statutory regulations are required to provide legal protection. Therefore, in the further part of this paper, we will draw attention to the current statutory and other regulations, adopted by the Republic of Serbia in order to protect the environment and human health.

National legislation for the protection of tourism

Criminal protection

The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia (*Off. Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 85/2005, 88/2005 - correction 107/2005 - correction, 72/2009, 111/2009, 121/2012, 104/2013, 108/2014 and 94/2016*) defines a number of criminal offenses whose execution can, in a particular manner, affect and produce effects on the tourist season. In the first order are all acts violent in character, among which we need to highlight terrorism and terrorist acts which most seriously, and to the greatest extent, affect all tourist effects. If the safety of tourists is threatened by terrorist acts, then all estimates and forecasts related to tourism revenue can be disregarded. Unfortunately, this has been a very common occurrence in the past couple of years, at the global level. Although terrorism is the most serious crime, that can cause the greatest damage to tourism, a whole series of other incriminations should also be mentioned which are also, to a greater or lesser extent, capable of affecting the effects of tourism. The Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia contains a whole series of incriminations that relate to waste disposal and treatment. Such offenses have been foreseen under Chapter 24, in the group of *criminal acts against the environment*, and under Chapter 25, in the group of *criminal offenses against the general safety of people and property*. This part of the paper will look at more significant crimes from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia which may, in some way, endanger tourism.

Terrorism (Art. 391)

Terrorism has been classified into the group of crimes against humanity and other goods protected by international law. In addition to the criminal offense of terrorism provided for under Article 391 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia, several more recent incriminations related to terrorism have been provided, such as: public incitement to commit terrorist acts (Art. 391A of the CC); recruitment and training for the commission of terrorist acts (Art. 391b of the CC); use of a deadly device (Art. 391v of the); destruction and damage to a nuclear facility (Art. 391g of the CC) and terrorist association (Art. 393a of the CC). All of these incriminations have been harmonized with a series of conventions aimed at the prevention of acts of terrorism, in particular the 2005 Council of Europe Convention ratified by Serbia in 2009 (*Official Gazette of the*

Republic of Serbia - International Treaties, No. 19/09) and the EU Council Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism of 13 June 2002, as amended by Council Framework Decision of 28 November 2008.

In the broadest sense, terrorism (terror, fear, horror) is a method for achieving political goals by violence, intimidation, abductions, blackmail, etc. The notion of terrorism is controversial, both in theory and in legislation (Stojanović, 2017).

The act of executing the basic form of the criminal offense of terrorism has been alternatively foreseen. These are the following actions: an attack on the life, body or freedom of another person; kidnapping or taking hostages; the destruction of a state or public facility, a traffic system, infrastructure including information systems, a fixed platform in the continental belt, a general good or private property in a way that could endanger the lives of people or cause damage to the economy; abduction of aircraft, ships or other means of public transport or the transport of goods; production, possession, acquisition, transportation, supply or use of nuclear, biological, chemical or other weapons; discharging dangerous materials or causing a fire, explosion or flood, or taking other actions that could endanger the lives of people; interrupting or stopping the supply of water, electricity or other basic natural resource that could endanger the lives of people. For this act to exist, it requires specific intent. The intent of the perpetrator must be aimed at achieving one of three goals: a) to seriously frighten citizens; b) to compel Serbia, a foreign state or an international organization, to do or not to do something, or c) to seriously jeopardize or violate the basic constitutional, political, economic or social structure of Serbia, a foreign state or an international organization.

The less severe act is a situation where the perpetrator is threatening to perform any of the above listed, basic forms of the acts, with the mandatory presence of intent. A more severe act is a situation where either the execution of a basic form of an act has resulted in death of one or more persons, or the execution of an act has resulted in large-scale destruction. The most severe form occurs if the perpetrator deliberately deprived one or more persons of life during the execution of an act. The basic form of the act carries a prison sentence of five to fifteen years. The less severe form carries a sentence of six months to five years, whereas the more severe form a prison sentence of no less than ten years. Furthermore, the most severe form foresees imprisonment of no less than twenty years, or thirty to forty years.

The legislator foresees responsibility for the preparatory actions of this criminal offense in two forms. The first one is applied when a person acquires or enables funds for the execution of terrorism; or removes obstacles to its execution; or negotiates with another, planning or organizing the execution of the act. For this form, a prison sentence of one to five years has been prescribed. The other (more severe) form is applied when people, weapons, explosives, poisons, equipment, ammunition or other material is sent or transferred to the territory of Serbia for the purpose of committing the criminal offense of terrorism. This act carries a prison sentence of two to ten years (Bosković & Skakavac, 2018).

The group of *criminal acts against the environment* contains the following crimes:

Environmental pollution (Art. 260)

The basic form of this criminal offense is committed by a person who violates regulations on the protection, conservation and improvement of the environment by polluting air, water or soil, to a greater or larger extent. The perpetrator is subject to punishment by both imprisonment in the duration of six months to five years and a fine. The applicable Law on Environmental Protection defines polluting the environment as the introduction of pollutants, or energy into the environment, caused by human activity or natural processes that has or may have harmful effects on the quality of life and human health (Article 3, Item 11).

For the existence of a criminal offense, it is necessary that pollution occurred in violation of regulations governing the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment. The basic form of the criminal offense exists when air, water, or land has been polluted to a greater extent, or over a wider area. This means that it is necessary to pollute one, of the three above listed, to a greater extent or over a wider area.

A less severe form of the criminal offense (Para. 2) exists if this act has been committed out of negligence and such a perpetrator shall be punishable by a fine or imprisonment for up to two years. An unintentional form of this offense resulting in a more severe consequence has been defined, i.e., if destruction or damage to animal or plant life, or pollution, is of larger proportions requiring either a significant amount of time or great costs to remove. The more severe form of this criminal act

(Para. 3) is present if the basic form of this act has resulted in the destruction or damage to animal or plant life, or pollution, which is of larger proportions requiring a significant amount of time to remove or great costs. This means that it differs from the basic form due to the existence of more severe consequences.

The perpetrator is subject to a sentence of one to eight years in prison and a fine. A specific form of the criminal offense has occurred if, due to the unintentional execution of the act, destruction or damage to animal or plant life, or pollution, has taken place which is of larger proportions requiring either a significant amount of time or great costs to remove. Such an offender is subject to punishment by imprisonment in the duration of six months to five years and a fine.

Non-implementation of environmental protection measures (Art. 261)

This criminal act, in its basic form, exists if an official or responsible person fails to implement prescribed environmental protection measures, or does not act according to a decision issued by a relevant body for environmental protection issues. The perpetrator is punishable by a fine, or a sentence of up to three year in prison. A less severe form of this criminal offense exists if it was the result of negligence. In this case, the perpetrator is subject to a fine or imprisonment of up to one year.

A specific form of this criminal offense exists if the execution, of the basic or less severe form of this criminal offense, has caused environmental pollution. In such cases, the perpetrator will be punishable for the criminal offense of environmental pollution referred to under Article 260 of this Code.

Environmental damage (Art. 264)

This offense in its basic form is an act which has violated regulations, exploited natural resources, constructed facilities, performed works, or in some other manner caused damage to the environment, to a greater extent or over a wider area. The perpetrator is punishable by a sentence of up to three years in prison. A less severe form exists if the act was the result of negligence. In this case, the perpetrator is subject to a fine or imprisonment of up to one year.

The introduction of dangerous substances into Serbia and the unauthorized processing, disposal and storage of hazardous substances (Art. 266)

The basic form of this criminal offense takes place when an individual, contrary to regulations, enters into Serbia radioactive or other dangerous substance or hazardous waste, or transports, processes, deposits, collects or stores such materials or waste. A prison sentence of six months to five years will be imposed on the perpetrator of this criminal offense, and a fine. The more severe form of this criminal offense will be conducted by an individual who has, by misusing his official position or authority, enabled the entrance of radioactive or other dangerous substances or hazardous waste into Serbia, or who has allowed such materials or waste to be transported, processed, disposed of, collected or stored contrary to regulations. In such cases, the perpetrator will be punished by imprisonment of one to eight years, and a fine. A special form of this criminal offense exists if, during the commission of the basic or more severe forms of the act, destruction has been caused to animal or plant life, or pollution, which is of larger proportions requiring a significant amount of time to remove or great costs. In these cases, the perpetrator will be punishable by imprisonment of two to ten years, and a fine. A person who organizes the execution of the act from the basic form will be punishable by a prison sentence of three to ten years, and a fine.

Pollution of food and water for consumption or animal feed (Art. 273)

This offense entails acts which cause harmful substances to contaminate food or water, for consumption or animal feed, thereby endangering their life or health. In this case, the perpetrator is subject to a fine or imprisonment up to two years. The same punishment will also be imposed on a person who causes harmful substances to pollute water in a fishpond, lake, river, or canal, or supply from infected waters, causing danger to the survival of fish or other aquatic animals. The more severe form of this criminal offense exists if abovementioned activities have caused the death of animals or other significant damage, in both of their forms. In such cases, the perpetrator will be faced with a fine or imprisonment of up to three years. A less severe form of this crime exists if the act was the result of negligence. Such an offender will be subject to a fine or imprisonment for up to six months.

Within the group of *criminal offenses against the general safety of people and property*, Chapter 25, there are three criminal offenses which have been incriminated and which could, in a certain sense, be related to some incriminated actions with medical waste, such as:

Provoking a general danger (Art. 278)

The basic form of this criminal offense is anyone who has by fire, flood, explosion, poison or toxic gas, radioactive or other ionizing radiation, electrical energy, motor force or other generally dangerous activity or dangerous substance, caused a danger to the life or body of people or to property of higher value. The perpetrator of this criminal offense will be punished by imprisonment of six months to five years, and a fine. An official, or responsible person, who does not install prescribed protection against fire, flood, explosion, poison or toxic gas, radioactive or other ionizing radiation, electrical energy, motor force or other generally dangerous activity or dangerous substance, or does not maintain these devices in proper order, or, when required, does not put them at the disposal or fails to abide by regulations or technical rules on protective measures and thus poses a danger to the life or body of people, or property of greater volume, shall also be subject to the same punishment.

A penalty of imprisonment of one to eight years, and a fine, will be imposed over everyone who conducts either of the above two forms in a place with a large number of people (more severe form). An even more severe form exists if the basic form of this crime is committed with the use of firearms. Such a perpetrator will be punished with two to ten years of imprisonment. A less severe form of this criminal offense exists if an act, from any of the latter three forms, was the result of negligence. Such a perpetrator will be punished with up to three years of imprisonment.

Unauthorized acquisition and a security threat from nuclear matter (Art. 287)

This act has the basic form, and three more severe forms. A criminal act from the basic form constitutes an action by a person who, under force or the threat of force, by committing a criminal offense or in another unlawful manner, acquires, possesses, uses, transports, gives to another, nuclear substance, or enables another acquisition of the same. The perpetrator is punishable by a sentence of up to three year in prison. The more severe form constitutes a threat for the use nuclear material in order

to force someone to do something, or not to do something, thus endangering the safety of people. Such a perpetrator will be punished with one to ten years of imprisonment. An even more severe form exists if serious bodily injury, or property damage of large proportions, has occurred due to the previous two forms. A prison sentence of two to twelve years is prescribed for such a perpetrator. The most severe form is sanctioned by imprisonment of three to fifteen years and will be handed down if the death of one or more persons has occurred during the commission of the basic and severe forms.

Severe acts against overall security (Art. 288)

If, due to an act causing general danger from Article 278, Paragraphs 1 to 3 of this Code, serious bodily injury has been caused to a person, or damage to property of great value, the offender will be punished by imprisonment of one to eight years. If the act from Article 278, Paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Code resulted in the death of one or more persons, the offender will receive a prison sentence of two to twelve years. If the act from Article 278, Paragraph 5 of this Code, caused serious bodily injury to a person, or damage to property of great value, the offender will be punished by imprisonment from six months to five years. If the act from Article 278, Paragraph 5 of this Code resulted in the death of one or more persons, the offender will receive a prison sentence of one to eight years.

The Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of Government Authorities in Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption

The Law on Organization and Jurisdiction of Government Authorities in Suppression of Organized Crime, Terrorism and Corruption (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 94/2016 and 87/2018 - other law*) regulates the education, organization, competence and powers of state bodies and special organizational units of state bodies, for the purpose of detecting, prosecuting and trying criminal offenses as prescribed by this law.

This law is applied during the detection, prosecution and trial of:

1) criminal offenses of organized crime; 2) the crime of killing a representative of the highest state bodies (Article 310 of the CC) and the criminal offense of armed rebellion (Article 311 of the CC); 3) the

criminal offenses against official duty (Articles 359 and 361 to 368 of the CC) and the criminal act of giving and receiving bribes related to voting (Article 156 of the CC); 4) economic criminal offenses (Articles 223, 223a, 224, 224a, 227, 228, 228a, 229, 230, 231, 232, 232a, 233, Article 235, Paragraph 4, Articles 236 and 245 of the CC); 5) and the criminal act of terrorism (Article 391 of the CC), criminal offense of public incitement to commit terrorist acts (Article 391a of the CC), recruitment and training for the commission of terrorist acts (Article 391b of the CC), criminal act of the use of a deadly device (Article 391v of the CC), criminal act of destruction and damage to a nuclear facility (Article 391g of the CC), the criminal act of financing terrorism (Article 393 of the CC) and criminal offense of terrorist association (Article 393a of the CC); 6) criminal offenses against state authorities (Article 322, Paragraphs 3 and 4 and Article 323, Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the CC); and a criminal offense against the judiciary (Articles 333 and 335 and Article 336, Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 and Articles 336b, 337 and 339 of the CC) if they were committed in connection with the crimes referred to under Items 1) to 5) of this Article.

The following bodies are responsible for the handling of criminal offenses:

1) Prosecutor's Office for Organized Crime; 2) Ministry of Internal Affairs - organizational unit responsible for combating organized crime; 2) Special Department of the Higher Court in Belgrade for Organized Crime; 4) Special Department of the Appellate Court in Belgrade for Organized Crime; 5) Special detention unit of the District Prison in Belgrade.

The basic laws in the field of environmental protection in the Republic of Serbia

1) The Law on the Confirmation of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, (*Official Gazette of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - International treaties, No. 2/99*), which provides internationally agreed mechanisms and instruments for controlling the transboundary movement of waste;

2) The Law on Environmental Protection, (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 135/04, 36/09, 36/09 - other Law, 72/09 - other law and 14/16*) which defines an integral environmental protection system;

3) The Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 135/04*), which harmonizes environmental

policy with other, sectoral policies, during the drafting and adoption of other plans and programs in the field of spatial and urban planning or use of land, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hunting, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, conservation of natural habitats and wildlife and flora, and which establish a framework for the adoption of future development projects;

4) The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 135/04 and 36/09*), which regulates the procedure for assessing possible significant impacts of certain public and private projects on the environment;

5) The Law on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 135/04*), which regulates the conditions and procedure for issuing an integrated permit for the operation of a plant and for performing activities that may have negative effects on human health, the environment or material goods;

6) The Law on Waste Management (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, Nos. 36/09, 88/2010 and 14/2016*) which defines the types and the classification of waste; waste management planning; waste management entities; responsibilities and obligations in waste management; the organization of waste management; management of special waste streams; conditions and procedure for issuing licenses; cross-border movement of waste; waste and database reporting; waste management financing; control, as well as other issues of importance for waste management;

7) The Law on Packaging and Packaging Waste (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 36/09*), regulates the environmental conditions that packaging must meet before being put on the market, packaging and packaging waste management, packaging and packaging waste reporting, economic instruments, as well as other issues of importance for packaging and packaging waste management. Provisions of this law are applied to imported packaging, packaging produced or put into circulation, and all packaging waste generated by economic activities on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, regardless of its origin, use and used packaging material.

8) The Law on Chemicals (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia Nos. 36/09, 88/10, 92/11 and 93/212*) defines the integrated management of chemicals, classification, packaging and labeling of chemicals, an integral register of chemicals and a register of chemicals placed on the market, restrictions and prohibitions on production, placing on the market and the use of chemicals, the import and export of certain hazardous chemicals, licenses for the performance of traffic and licenses for the use of

particularly hazardous chemicals, the placement of detergents on the market, systematic monitoring of chemicals, availability of data, monitoring and other issues of importance for the management of chemicals.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Property of the Government of the Republic of Serbia

The National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods of the Government of the Republic of Serbia (*Official Gazette of Republic of Serbia, No. 33/2012*) consists of three parts: The first part contains introductory considerations with basic information on the legal foundation and the reasons for the adoption of the document, the structure of the document and the drafting process, the significance and relation to other strategic documents. Definitions of natural resources and natural goods have been provided as well as the distribution of natural resources, with a definition of the main objectives of the National Strategy with an emphasis on the importance of a coordinated cross-sectoral management of natural resources. The second part includes strategic commitments and an Annex, which comprises its integral part. The Annex contains data related to the analysis of the state, and the current level, of natural resources and goods according to species, spatial distribution, diversity, scope and quality, environmental impact assessment, balance categories (spatial and temporal functions, quantities, quality, vulnerability, renewability, strategic reserves, etc.) and forecasting trends in an altered situation. The third part represents the final part and relates to the socio-economic and planning developmental analysis of strategic research priorities and the use of natural resources. In this section, the economic effects of the utilization of natural resources, and the economic goals and challenges for their sustainable use, have been considered.

The National Strategy for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Goods is cited as one of the most important strategic documents in: Serbia's National Strategy for EU Accession (2005), the National Program for the Integration of Serbia into the EU (2008, 2009), the National Millennium Development Goals (2006), the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2008), the National Environmental Protection Program (2010), the Strategy for Cleaner Production in the Republic of Serbia (2009), the Waste Management Strategy (2003, 2010), the Science and Technology Development Strategy (2010), the National

Strategy for Approximation in the Environment (2011), as well as other strategic documents.

The basic goals set to achieve this National Strategy are: 1) directing and ensuring conditions for the sustainable use of natural resources and goods, forming a basis for creating plans, programs and foundations for each individual natural resource or good; 2) reducing the negative impact of resource use on the economy and the environment by establishing basic indicators to be followed; 3) a contribution to the development towards sustainable production (through less and more efficient use of natural resources) and consumption (change of established consumption patterns), as well as making public procurements greener.

Conclusion

Tourism is a very important area for the development of each country and a significant driving force for progress. However, there are various forms of endangerment that can significantly reduce the developmental effects of tourism. In this sense, it is the responsibility of societies and, in particular, relevant state authorities and institutions, to take all necessary protection measures in order for this important economic branch to function at a high-quality level. In addition to terrorist acts that have violated tourist effects in some parts of the world in recent years, and other forms of criminal behavior, environmental pollution and environmental damage is one of the most pressing issues facing our society. To the extent that the development of industry has brought good to humanity, it has also damaged natural balance and equilibrium. Precisely for this reason, it is the obligation of all of us, both state authorities and individuals, to take all necessary measures in order to reduce the negative effects of industry on the environment and reduce the disposal of hazardous waste.

As already mentioned, radioactive and nuclear waste occupies a very prominent place in the structure of hazardous waste, in addition to industrial, medical and pharmaceutical waste, while the social attitude towards it is a major problem in contemporary social development. Waste in general, especially hazardous waste, is an aggravated social phenomenon, with an upward trajectory, that jeopardizes the vital interests of every society. It is a phenomenon whose proportions are related to, on the one hand, scientific and technological progress and, on

the other hand, to social relations and the degree of its normative character.

In protecting tourist destinations and the environment from various forms of endangerment, one of the safest and most important tasks is adequate legal regulations governing this matter, fully harmonized with international legal standards. In that sense, it can be said that through its legislation the Republic of Serbia has provided legal protection of tourism and tourist destinations from various forms of threats. This is, at least in a formal way, adequate protection of important tourist destinations. The aspect that is always an issue in our country is the practical application of these regulations. This issue will require more organized and serious work in the Republic of Serbia.

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