

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

THE “CARAVANING” IN THE DECREE 26/2018 ON ORDENATION OF TOURISM CAMPS IN ANDALUSIA

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Nowadays, tourism sector is essential to analyze and interpret the economic, social, territorial and cultural reality of Andalusia in particular and of Spain in general. Within the tourism sector, the beginnings of caravanning are relevant because it was one of the sectors least affected by the crisis.

Caravanning is a type of independent tourism that allows you to move with great autonomy during your holidays, being in constant contact with the natural and rural environment and allowing you to experience the feeling of freedom.

The continuous growth of caravanning has led to the emergence of a new form of tourism. It is a new profile of tourists who travel by motor home, with needs for services and accommodation far from the traditional offer of campsites. The vehicles that they use to travel and stay overnight give them independence, autonomy and mobility.

The importance of this new sector is crucial. For instance, only in Spain, in 2019, 8,903 motor homes were registered, compared to 7,046 in 2018. This increase represents 19.2% in annual sales of this vehicles. However, despite its importance, few researches in the literature have examined this sector which is currently at its peak.

The regulation of caravanning sector from the point of view of tourism supply and demand is a decisive necessity. Nowadays, all the Autonomous Communities of Spain have specific regulations of camping. In spite of the fact that there are points in common among them, the proliferation of new specialized accommodation in this sector such as motor home parks, have led some Autonomous Communities to create specific regulations for this new type of accommodation. The Decree 26/2018, of January 23, of management of tourism camps in Andalusia should be highlighted as a point of reference. Before this regulation, the Decrees of the Basque Country and the Valencian Community were the only ones published. Although these Decrees have been a reference until now, the new Andalusian Decree goes

further with this new accommodation modality. In fact, it regulates those facilities in which the motor homes can camp, that is, motor home parks, in addition to the camping. This is the first time that the camping motor home parks have been regulated.

The aim of this study, apart from analyzing this new Decree, it is also to know the entrepreneurs' perception of the sector and the possibilities of development that the Decree offers them. To achieve it, personal interviews were carried out with entities that participated in the preparation of the Decree and professionals of the sector. The questions of the questionnaire are divided into four blocks. The content of the first block is focused on the justification of the Decree. The second block evaluates tourism camps in global terms. The third part is focused on the adaptability of traditional camping to the caravanning sector. The last part is dedicated to the new figure of motor home parks.

Regarding about the analysis of the Decree, the publication of The Decree 26/2018, of January 23, of management of tourism camps in Andalusia, and the modification of Decree 20/2002, of January 29, on Tourism in the Middle Rural and Active Tourism, it affects two very different tourist areas, tourism camps and Rural Tourism and Active Tourism. This research is focused on Tourism Camps. These are divided into two groups, motor home parks and camping. We will focus on motor home parks because of its great impact and being at its peak in this Autonomous Community.

This Decree specifically excludes parking areas enabled to service motor homes in urban, interurban or any other area regulated by its own sectoral regulations.

In practice, the market was adapting to the new demand for specialized services of this extremely specific type of tourism, creating facilities for the reception and service of motor homes in a legal vacuum.

The Andalusian Government pretend to regulate, with this new Decree, tourism camps as tourist accommodation, classifying them into two groups; camping, comprising five categories classified by stars and specialties of a voluntary nature; and motor home parks with a single category.

It is particularly relevant the regulation of motor home parks, as a tourist establishment for camping of motor homes, with the aim of regulating and providing spaces where motor homes have the services, facilities and equipment to satisfy the needs of motor homes and their occupants.

Taking into account the regulation established by the new Decree in Andalusia, we can find that motor home parks in Andalusia would be defined on it. However, others would not be included on it.

Regarding to those installations that are under the domain of the Decree, there are general camping, specialty camping for motor homes or motor home parks.

Besides, it is believed that in Andalusia, specific facilities must be created for the reception of motor homes with the following premises: the awning opening and installing furniture outside the motor home must be facilitated in order to make life outdoors; they also must have facilities to satisfy the motor home's needs with places for emptying dirty water tanks, supplying drinking water, having adequate plots in dimensions and paving for the stay in motor homes, making possible the electrical connection for those motor homes, they must be places that guarantee the safety of the user and they must provide enough access and roads for the circulation of this type of vehicle.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the business viability of motor home parks, the following aspects must be taken into account: demand adequate, well-dimensioned equipment to satisfy the needs of the motor homers and motor home; and not limit the length of stay of the clients in the facilities.

The results obtained from the employers' perception of the Decree were based on the use of a frequency table that was calculated with the data obtained from the questionnaires' answers. The results show that the participants considered positive the approval and effects of the new Decree in the sector. However, they admitted not being agree at all with the fact that municipal parking lots and motor home parks were out of regulation. They also did not consider positive the fact that the Decree prohibits camping and overnight stays for leisure purposes outside the tourism camps.

Besides, they considered essential the possibility of camping and the establishment of different categories of motor home parks, as well as the fact that the available modalities adjust to the reality of the sector. However, they did not consider important that the access road has to be equipped with regulatory traffic signs, that all parcels must have electricity or that areas must have hygienic services.

In addition, entrepreneurs do not consider relevant that the group of motor home park swas compatible with camping groups. However, they considered critical that those camping that admit motor homes must be adapted.

Regarding to the specific requirements that affect them, the possibility of admitting caravans seems positive to them. However, the adaptation period seems sufficient to them or the established ratios regarding the level of infrastructure and equipment required seem excessive and unnecessary. In addition, the requirement to have shadows in plots of 50% is been negative for the development of the sector and quite difficult to get.

When it comes to the camping group, the entrepreneurs of the areas do not consider enough the adaptation proposed by the Decree for the reception of these motor homes in these tourist camps. They also did not consider so necessary that this compatibility occurs with other types of tourist establishments. Regarding the appearance of the specialized motor homes camping, they think that it is not positive and neither responds to the market needs.

In conclusion, we affirm that the model exposed in this Decree is adequate and can be considered as a reference for other Autonomous Communities. In addition, the Decree gets to make clearly and concisely to identify when a motor home is parked and when it is camped. Besides, the conditions of location and the requirements that must be met by motor home parks for the safety of their customers.

The Decree also contemplates that the camping that admit motor homes have to be adapted to the reception of this type of vehicle and to the provision of the services that they demand.

Nonetheless, the Andalusian Decree has not been able to regulate the spaces enabled and equipped by the municipalities for the reception of motor homes, creating a clear competitive disadvantage compared to the sector regulated in the Decree in terms of requirements for facilities, equipment and management regarding to those promoted by these public organizations.

Considering all these factors, we conclude that this Andalusian Decree has been able to regulate this new sector adequately.

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