

Joint Resolution
Comitato No Grandi Navi – Laguna Bene Comune, Venice, Italy and
Key West Committee for Responsible Tourism, Key West, FL
Coordinating Activities to Limit Size of Vessels in Historic Maritime Ports

WHEREAS, the Cities of Venice, Italy and Key West, Florida are internationally renowned destinations which face similar threats and challenges to maintain their unique historical integrities, while providing a thriving economy to support the current needs of their residents.

WHEREAS, the natural and built attractions of both cities, combined with their historical significance have made them highly attractive destinations for generations of tourists, to the point where tourism today represents the largest source of revenue to their respective economies.

WHEREAS, both destinations accommodate a variety of tourists, from semi-permanent residents who may stay in their own homes, to lengthy-stay tourists who book accommodations and may stay up to multiple weeks, to shorter term visitors, who might only stay from one to several days, to day-trippers, who arrive primarily by bus or cruise ship. These guests generally have only several hours to experience the destination.

WHEREAS, the trend in cruise ships was been towards larger vessels, carrying more passengers and crew than were previously possible. This development has been for the exclusive convenience and profitability of the cruise industry, without regard to potential negative impacts created on ports.

WHEREAS, the pressures created by the thrust of these massive vessels produce forces which damage and threaten sustainability of the natural and built environments, which were never intended to receive such concentrated and recurrent bursts.

WHEREAS, the scale of these vessels far exceeds anything that these historic ports were built to accommodate and their sheer size overwhelms the historic setting, diminishing visual appeal and sense of place.

WHEREAS, exhaust emissions from these vessels, contain significant quantities of Sulfur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides, particulate, Carbon Monoxide and greenhouse gases, which are known to cause respiratory and other health problems, acid rain and contribute to climate change.

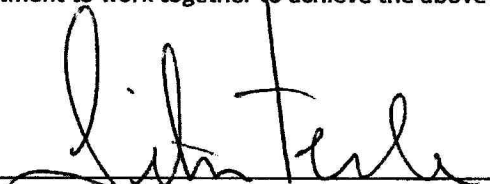
WHEREAS, discharges from these vessels include treated sewage, untreated graywater, oily bilge, cleaning compounds, food waste, ballast water and toxins leached from anti-fouling paint, which pose various documented risks to human health, marine life and the environment.

WHEREAS, the number of passengers and crew disembarking from larger cruise ships can overcrowd and overwhelm the narrow, historic streets and diminish the experience of all who wish to enjoy the respective towns,

WHEREAS, sedimentation caused by the massive thrust of these vessels threaten the ecosystem of Venice's Lagoon and the health of Key West's corals and reef; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the organizations, Comitato No Grandi Navi – Laguna Bene Comune of Venice, Italy and the Key West Committee for Responsible Tourism agree to jointly coordinate their efforts to educate the public on the dire need to limit the size of vessels and number of passengers able to disembark on any single day in historic maritime ports and to advance good stewardship of resources in order to promote sustainability, and to encourage balanced use and discourage overcrowding which detracts from the experiences of tourists and locals alike.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Secretary of each organization will prepare copies of this resolution for distribution to the media to make known the jointly held positions of each organizations and their commitment to work together to achieve the above stated goals.



Signature, Chairman Comitato No Grandi Navi – Laguna Bene Comune (No Big Ships Committee)



Signature, Chairman KW Committee for Responsible Tourism

27 - 8 - 2013
Effective Date