

Tourism businesses and destinations are committed to the sustainable energy agenda but need the support of the energy sector and governments to move forward, said leading experts from the aviation, accommodation and other tourism industries meeting in Spain for the official celebrations of World Tourism Day 2012 (Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, Spain, 27 September 2012).

Their Royal Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of Spain opened the celebrations, commending the tourism community for choosing Tourism & Sustainable Energy as the theme of World Tourism Day (WTD) 2012, in line with the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

"This theme brings to the table one of the most pressing challenges facing the world today," said Prince Felipe. "We cannot guarantee the future of important sectors such as tourism if we don't protect the environment in which they take place."

This message was echoed by the Minister of Industry, Energy and Tourism of Spain, José Manuel Soria, who spoke of the importance of ensuring tourism's sustained growth, "one of the world's largest employers", while committing to sustainability.

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