

PRESS RELEASE**NET is growing: ECC joins NET****The European Cruise Council (ECC) has joined NET, the Network of European private entrepreneurs in the Tourism sector.**

Brussels – 9th of September 2009 – the Members of the NET are pleased to welcome a new Member, the European Cruise Council. Today NET counts 7 associations representing a cross-section of stakeholders of the tourism industry, whose joint objective is to promote the interest of private tourism entrepreneurs in Europe.

Formed in 2004, the European Cruise Council represents the major cruise companies operating in Europe. The European cruise industry has experienced major growth in the last five years, over 4.4 million European residents booking cruises in 2008. Accounting for over €14 billion in direct expenditure by cruise lines and passengers, some 311.000 jobs and nearly 22 million port visits in Europe, the industry is a major contributor to growth and employment.

Said Tim Marking of ECC: “We are delighted to join NET and work together with other industry partners on common points of interest. Europe is an increasingly important market for the sector and there are a number of regulatory and other initiatives, notably in the environment and consumer protection fields, which are of special relevance to the industry. In the latter regard, the revision of the Package Travel Directive and the proposals concerning passenger rights and consumer rights are of particular importance.”

NET is a coalition formed to promote the interests of the European tourism private sector. Its aim is to present a co-ordinated private industry view on EU tourism-related issues to the European institutions. NET has a flexible structure and remains open to other important industry associations representing tourism entrepreneurs in Europe.

For more details contact the NET Secretariat (see details below) or ECC at:

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ECC
CRUISE COMPANIES OPERATING
IN EUROPE

ECTAA
TRAVEL AGENTS &
TOUR OPERATORS IN EUROPE

EFCO&HPA
CAMPS SITES, HOLIDAY PARKS
& HOLIDAY VILLAGES IN EUROPE

ETOA
TOUR OPERATORS BRINGING
VISITORS TO EUROPE

HOTREC
HOTELS, RESTAURANTS
& CAFÉS IN EUROPE

IAAPA
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
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