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Tourism in the Treaties?

HOTREC position paper

Catania, 12 April 2003

The question whether or not tourism should be included in the Treaties is not a new issue. It has been raised regularly over the last decade (every time that the Treaties were revised). The European Convention on the future of the European Union is once again re-opening the debate. As amply demonstrated by HOTREC's publication "250 European Union Measures affecting the hotel, restaurant and café sector", the presence or not of the word tourism in the Treaties has had no influence whatsoever on the applicability to the sector of measures on VAT, protection of the consumer, protection of the environment and social affairs, which are based on specific articles of the Treaties relating to these issues. At its General Assembly in Catania on 12 April 2003, HOTREC agreed that **the European Institutions should be given competence for support actions in relation to tourism under the proviso that these actions would focus only on the entrepreneurial aspect of tourism** (the protection of consumers, workers and the environment are already fully dealt with by specific chapters of the Treaties).

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