

## PRESS RELEASE

### **More national hospitality associations join the European Alcohol and Health Forum**

**Brussels, 16 April 2008**

**On the occasion of its second plenary meeting, the European Alcohol and Health Forum accepted the membership of the Finnish Hospitality Association and of the Swedish Hotel and Restaurant Association. This brings to 3 the national associations of HOTREC\*, Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe, having made commitments to reduce alcohol abuse related harm. The British Beer and Pub Association joined the Forum at the beginning of the year. As an umbrella association representing the hospitality industry at EU level, HOTREC committed itself to invite and stimulate national associations to take action within the Forum.**

The new EU Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou (Cyprus) commented as follows on the Forum meeting of today: *“I am impressed by the number and scope of commitments by Forum members within these first 10 months of the Forum’s existence”*.

However, to a question whether the Commission foresees a Directive on the issue, the Commissioner replied that *“this approach is for the moment pre-mature”*. This reply unfortunately implies that legislation is not excluded!

Details on the commitments will soon be available on the Commission website:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm)

And on the HOTREC website: [www.hotrec.eu](http://www.hotrec.eu)

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\* HOTREC represents the hotel, restaurant and café industry at European level. It counts 1.6 million businesses, with 92% of them being micro enterprises employing less than 10 people. The micro and small enterprises (having less than 50 employees) in the hospitality industry representing 99% of businesses make up some 62% of value added. The industry provides some 9 million jobs in the EU alone. HOTREC brings together 40 National Associations representing the interest of the industry in 25 different European countries.