



The hospitality industry welcomes the adoption by the European Parliament of the Collective Rights Management Directive

Brussels, 6 February 2014 – HOTREC, the business association representing the European hospitality industry, welcomes the adoption by the plenary session of the European Parliament of the new Directive on Collective Management of Copyright and calls for its swift transposition into national law.

As an important commercial right-user, the European hospitality industry considers that this new Directive might help tackling some of the long-standing problems regularly faced by hospitality businesses when negotiating licenses with collective management organisations. *“For many years, HOTREC has complained about the lack of transparency and cost-efficiency of many collective management organisations. We therefore support this Directive, which has the potential to solve some of the problems faced by right-users, even though we regret that the important issue of one-stop-shops is not addressed”* commented Ramón Estalella, HOTREC ExCom member and Chair of its Copyright Task Force.

The text voted by the European Parliament is the result of a compromise agreement reached between the Council and the European Parliament. Following this vote, the Council is now expected to formally approve the Directive rather quickly. Member States will then have to transpose into national law the Directive and its provisions. *“The European hospitality industry clearly calls on the Member States to quickly and fully adopt the provisions of this new Directive at national level, in particular the provisions relating to the negotiations with users and to dispute resolutions”* further added Mr. Estalella.

The text voted by the European Parliament contains a number of provisions aimed at raising transparency and good governance standards for collective management organisations, while ensuring that licensing terms and tariffs are non-discriminatory and reasonable. Moreover, the Directive explicitly grants the possibility for Member States to provide for independent and impartial dispute resolution procedures to solve conflicts between collective management organisations and right users.

What is HOTREC?

HOTREC represents the hotel, restaurant and café industry at European level. This industry includes around 1,8 million businesses, of which 99% are small and medium sized enterprises (91% of them micro enterprises, i.e. employing fewer than 10 people). These businesses make up some 59% of industry value added. The hospitality industry provides some 10.2 million jobs in the EU alone. Together with the other tourism industries, the sector is one of the largest industries in Europe. HOTREC brings together 42 national associations representing the sector in 27 different European countries.

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