



European Parliament vote on Package Travel Directive is positive news for tourism businesses, says the European hotel industry

Brussels, 12 March 2014 – HOTREC, the business association representing the European hospitality industry, considers the adoption by the European Parliament plenary of its resolution on the new Package Travel Directive as a positive development for tourism businesses in Europe. *“We are glad to see that the European Parliament has voted in favour of a balanced approach that will allow for a modernisation of the legislation without overburdening the vast majority of tourism businesses such as hotels. This is good news for growth and jobs in the tourism sector”* commented Mr. Kent Nyström, President of HOTREC.

The European hospitality industry, which was worried by the initial Commission proposal, particularly welcomes the introduction of the concept of ancillary tourism services and the increase of the percentage used to define combinations that are not considered significant enough to constitute a package. Such elements are vital to allow hotels in Europe to keep offering the services consumers expect during their stay.

The European hospitality industry is also relieved by the European Parliament decision to reject amendments on stand-alone services and on a right of withdrawal. Such amendments would have been in conflict with the Consumer Rights Directive, which explicitly covers most individual tourism services, and would have undermined the possibility to offer and perform many packages, while creating distortions between packages and individual tourism services.

The European hospitality industry now calls on the current Greek Presidency of the EU and on the future Italian Presidency of the EU to ensure that these important elements contained in the European Parliament resolution are upheld in the discussions in the Council.

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.

For further information: www.hotrec.eu

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