



## **HOTREC and Hotelstars Union welcome as its new member the Liechtenstein Hotel & Gastronomy Association (LHGV)**

**The Hague, 5 November 2015 – On the occasion of its 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, HOTREC, the business association representing the European hospitality industry, welcomed as a new member the Liechtenstein Hotel & Gastronomy Association (LHGV). At the same occasion Liechtenstein also signed the Hotelstars Union (HSU) Adhesion Contract and has thus become the sixteenth member of the stars family.**

*We warmly welcome the Liechtenstein Hotel & Gastronomy Association (LHGV). Liechtenstein extends the HOTREC family to 43 national associations increasing, thus, its representativeness as the voice of the European hospitality industry” said Ms. Susanne Kraus-Winkler, President of HOTREC. “With new members, HOTREC strengthens even more its position as a key interlocutor before the European institutions on a wide range of policy issues impacting directly or indirectly the industry in Europe” concluded Ms. Kraus-Winkler.*

*“We are very pleased to become a member of HOTREC. The hospitality industry is a key sector to our Principality, therefore, joining HOTREC will place us in a better position to represent and defend the interests of our industry” said Dr. Marcello Scarnato, LHGV Board Member “We have been following HOTREC affairs for the last months and we are impressed by the quality services developed by HOTREC for its members. We are eager to start working together with the other HOTREC members on European hospitality related matters and to start exchanging views on the opportunities and challenges that the tourism sector currently encounters. In addition, being a Member of HSU is an important step for our hotels to enhance international competitiveness and comparability”, added Dr. Scarnato.*

*HSU President, Ákos Niklai, is delighted about the accession and states: “We are happy about Liechtenstein’s entry into HSU. Hotel classification provides security and orientation for guests and quality assurance for hoteliers”.*

LHGV will officially join HOTREC membership as of 9 November 2015. With this new member, HOTREC extends its representation to 43 national associations in 29 different European countries, demonstrating its success as the European umbrella association representing the interest of hotels, restaurants, cafés and similar establishments before the EU institutions.



*Akos Niklaj, President of Hotelstars Union, Susanne Kraus-Winkler, President of HOTREC, and Marcello Scarnato, LHGV Board Member*

#### **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 28 different European countries.

#### **Hotelstars Union**

The Hotelstars Union was founded with the patronage of HOTREC in 2009. The founding countries are: Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Since then Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg and Malta joined. Important tourist destinations like France, Ireland and Italy are interested in the HSU and currently have the so-called observer status. The observer's aim is to also become a Member of the union in the following years. HOTREC is the European umbrella association for hotels, restaurants and cafés with 42 national member associations in 28 European countries.

For further information: [www.hotrec.eu](http://www.hotrec.eu); <http://www.lhgv.li/>; [www.hotelstars.eu](http://www.hotelstars.eu)

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