



2014 EU elections: hospitality industry calls on MEP candidates to support its Manifesto and put tourism at the centre of EU policies

Rome, 10 April 2014 – In the presence of Vice-President of the European Commission Antonio Tajani, the General Assembly of HOTREC, the business association representing the European hospitality industry, called on the candidates to the 2014 European elections to support and promote the 16 priorities of its Manifesto for the next EU legislative term.

“The European hospitality industry employs more than 10 million people. It has created 2.5 million more jobs between 2000 and 2010 and is one of the few sectors that kept creating new jobs despite the crisis. For this reason, candidates to the European elections should support our Manifesto if they want to boost growth and job creation in the EU”, commented Mr. Kent Nyström, President of HOTREC.

As the EU election campaign is starting, the HOTREC Manifesto is directly addressed to the candidates of the European Parliament and European political parties. It contains sixteen goals that should be prioritised and supported by the future MEPs in the next European Parliament legislative term to boost the growth and employment in the tourism sector and ensure it is fully taken into account in the various EU policies. The priorities promoted by the European hospitality sector for 2014-2019 include the creation of an Intergroup on Tourism in the European Parliament, the promotion of smarter regulation, the facilitation of tourism SMEs' funding, a more balanced approach to data protection, a stricter application of the subsidiarity principle, fairer competition on the online tourism distribution market or visa facilitation among other equally important EU policy issues.

The Manifesto of the European hospitality industry is available on the [HOTREC website](http://www.hotrec.eu).

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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