



## **Susanne Kraus-Winkler elected President of HOTREC**

**Riga, HOTREC 69th General Assembly, 16 October 2014 – HOTREC, the trade association of hotels, restaurants and cafés in Europe, elected today its new President and Executive Committee as well as welcome two new members, bringing its representativeness to 29 European countries.**

Elected President of HOTREC, position that she will take on from January 1 2015, Ms. Kraus-Winkler has been a Member of HOTREC Executive Committee since 2004 and Vice-President since 2010. She has a long-standing management experience of the tourism and hospitality industry in Austria and is a Founding partner of the LOISIUM Wine & Spa resort Hotel. Board Member of APHA, the Austrian Association of Hotels, Ms. Kraus-Winkler holds several positions at the Austrian Chamber of Commerce.

*“Together with HOTREC Executive Committee and all Members, my priorities will be to pursue HOTREC’s modernisation to maximise its influence at EU level and make it an even more visible and service-oriented organisation for its members”* said Ms. Susanne Kraus-Winkler, the new President of HOTREC.

The European hospitality industry, which counts 1.8 million enterprises and provides 10 million jobs, plays a key role in Europe’s competitiveness as a major contributor to tourism’s share\* in Europe’s GDP.

*“With the new Commission to take on soon and the European Parliament already at work, we need to ensure that tourism remains at the core of the EU’s agenda, in order to foster the hospitality industry’s competitiveness and therefore strongly contribute to Europe’s growth and jobs”* added M. Kraus-Winkler.



*The new HOTREC Executive Committee*

HOTREC also approved the membership application of the Chamber of Commerce of the Polish Hotel Industry and the Tourism and Hospitality Chamber of Slovenia. This brings HOTREC membership to a total of 44 national associations representing the hospitality industry in 29 European countries.

The new Executive Committee elected by the General Assembly is now composed, apart from President Susanne Kraus-Winkler (Austria), of Vice-President Ákos Niklai (Hungary), Marinus Cordesius (The Netherlands), as well as six members: Markus Luthe (Germany), Adrian Cummins (Ireland), Ramón Estalella (Spain), Agni Christidou (Greece), Danny Van Assche (Belgium), Paolo Rossi (Italy).

\* Tourism's share in Europe's GDP is 9%.

***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 44 national associations representing the sector in 29 different European countries.

For further information: [www.hotrec.eu](http://www.hotrec.eu)

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