



## **The EU restaurant sector calls on the Dutch Presidency to acknowledge red tape risks for SMEs in its Roadmap on food product improvement**

**Brussels – 19 February 2016 – HOTREC, the European umbrella association of hotels, restaurants and cafés, raises its strong concerns to the Dutch Presidency about its Roadmap on food product improvement which will be released this Monday in a high level conference organised in Amsterdam.**

The European restaurant, café and pub industry, which is composed of 1.6 million enterprises (among which 1,5 million micro-enterprises) will not be able to support this Roadmap, as the final text removes a key sentence about the administrative burdens risks faced by SMEs in case of additional legal responsibilities in product composition and consumer information.

*“At a time when Europe needs more than ever entrepreneurship, and the contributions of its 1.6 million businesses composing the restaurant, café and pub industry, the deletion of this sentence is a very negative signal sent to entrepreneurs and comes in total contradiction with the Juncker’s plan for Growth and Jobs which has flagged the fight against administrative burdens as a top priority”* explains Christian de Barrin, CEO of HOTREC.

The deletion of this sentence means that the Roadmap presented by the Dutch presidency will not be able to list the European restaurant industry as a supporter of the initiative, therefore raising doubts about an initiative which would ignore a key stakeholder in the discussions about the nutritional improvement of the food offered to consumers.

*“To be efficient, public policy approaches about nutrition and food product improvement must associate the restaurant sector and take into considerations SME’s specific concerns. For this reason, we call on the Dutch Presidency of the EU to acknowledge our specificities and avoid any potential risk of red tape in the final roadmap to be endorsed this Monday”* concludes Mr. Adrian Cummins, CEO of the Restaurant Association of Ireland, and co-Chair of the HOTREC Restaurant & Pub task Force.

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

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

**PRESS CONTACT:** Alexis Waravka +32(0)2 504 78 43, [alexis.waravka@hotrec.eu](mailto:alexis.waravka@hotrec.eu)