

European Parliament Elections 2014



Hotrec
Hospitality Europe

The **Manifesto**

of the European hotel, restaurant and bar/café sector for 2014-2019

2.5 million more jobs in the last 10 years!

Europe is the heart of World Wide Tourism

Put Tourism at the centre of European economic policy

16 priorities for growth and jobs

Hospitality: a key industry in the EU economy | Facts & Figures

HOTREC, which brings together 44 national associations in 27 countries, is the voice of the hospitality industry (hotels, restaurants and bar/café businesses) in the EU.

The European hospitality sector, together with the other tourism industries, is the **3rd largest socio-economic activity in Europe** and is, therefore, critical to Europe's competitiveness and economic well-being. It is also one of the few industries that keeps creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs, especially among young people, despite the economic crisis affecting the continent. It is a sector consisting mainly of micro-enterprises. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the sector is taken seriously into account by the European Institutions when shaping EU policies and legislation.

Consequently, on the occasion of the 2014 European Parliament elections campaign, HOTREC is addressing its Manifesto to candidates to the European Parliament. It consists of 16 demands which should be prioritised in the next legislative term.

A flourishing hospitality industry is vital to Europe's growth and employment. HOTREC therefore, calls on all candidates and European political parties to support its Manifesto, in order to ensure that hospitality businesses keep growing and employing more people.



As a pillar of the European economy, tourism should be put at the centre of European economic policy. An **Intergroup on Tourism** in the EP should be established to include all relevant stakeholders. This intergroup should monitor all political developments with a likely impact on tourism sectors and ensure their interests are taken into account.



More than 10 million people employed (4,5% of employment in Europe)

Employment growth rate of 29% (2.5 million new jobs) between 2000 and 2010 (7.1% in overall economy)



A sector providing job opportunities for all types of workers (33% of workers are relatively unskilled compared to 20% in the overall economy)

20% of the people employed are aged under 25 years (9% in overall economy) – an industry to fight youth unemployment



1.8 million enterprises

91% of these enterprises employ fewer than 10 people

99% of these enterprises employ fewer than 50 people



236 billion EUR direct value added to the economy

60% of the value-added by the whole industry comes from small enterprises employing fewer than 50 people



460 billion EUR contribution to the economy (3,7% of EU GDP)

Europe receives 51% of all international tourist arrivals



The 16 priorities of the European hospitality sector for 2014-2019

In general

▶ **Subsidiarity must prevail**

The EU should refrain from legislating on aspects with no-justified single market dimension.

▶ **Smarter regulation**

Self-regulation should be promoted, and burdensome over-regulation avoided.

▶ **Cut red tape**

The reduction of administrative burden is key to facilitating the competitiveness of enterprises.

▶ **Easier access to funds for SMEs**

The tourism industry should have more access to EU financial instruments.

EU policies

▶ **Social Affairs - Do not undermine job creation!**

It is necessary to avoid new EU employment legislation which would damage the industry's excellent record in increasing jobs, especially for young people. Flexibility of working time arrangements is crucial for the maintenance of service within the hospitality industry.

▶ **Distribution channels - Ensure fair competition in online distribution!**

Enforced best price guarantees due to the dominant position of Online Travel Agents (OTAs) make entrepreneurs lose control over their prices and businesses. The dominant position of OTAs needs to be reversed.

▶ **Visa Policy - Facilitate the entrance of tourists to Europe!**

The use of intelligent technical solutions to facilitate visa procurement, in particular for all BRICS, is crucial. The contribution of tourism to the EU economy needs to be taken into account, as well as security issues.

▶ **Official controls in restaurants - No mandatory inspection fee!**

An EU proposal intends to make restaurants pay a fee covering the cost of inspections. This fee will be a tax. As there is no single market impact in the case of restaurants, this should be an option for Member States, not an obligation.

▶ **Accessibility - Consider the burdens on SMEs!**

In order to be efficient, any future legislation should stay as much as possible at national level. Flexibility and reasonable requirements are the key drivers for success.

▶ **Data Protection - No extra burdens for SMEs!**

The future Regulation should not impose new obligations on the industry, especially the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer.

▶ **Copyright - Users also need clear regulation of the audio-visual sector!**

After the adoption of the new Directive on collective management of copyright, similar EU legislation shall also regulate the audio-visual sector: more transparency and one-stop-shops are needed to protect right-users.

▶ **Package Travel - Do not impair hotel bookings!**

The legal regime applicable to hotel bookings covered by a new package travel Directive should not be less favourable than the existing legal framework. More jobs will be created, without decreasing consumer protection, if the new Directive applies only when there is a travel/transport element.

▶ **Payment cards: Interchange Fees (IFs) must come down!**

IFs violate competition law, increase prices and are well above the real cost of processing cards. IFs should be banned for debit cards and capped for credit cards.

▶ **Food in restaurants: Ensure the use of fresh food is still possible!**

The recently adopted Food Information Regulation will make it harder for restaurants to use fresh food. Any future EU legislation should not result in an effective ban on the use of fresh food.

▶ **VAT rates - Maintain reduced rates for tourism!**

Reduced VAT allows for a competitive Europe as a tourism destination, including the creation of new jobs. Member States should continue to have the option to apply reduced VAT rates to hospitality services.

▶ **Private accommodation: Level playing field for all participants in tourism businesses!**

The ever increasing number of owners renting private apartments and holiday homes as tourist accommodation, especially through online distribution channels, and without always having to abide by the regulations applying to the hospitality sector, constitutes a threat to consumer protection and to jobs in the hotel industry.

Any further information
can be obtained on
www.hotrec.eu

HOTREC NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRIA

APHA - Fachverband Hotellerie
APRA - Fachverband Gastronomie
VVAT - Veranstalterverband

BELGIUM

Fed. Ho.Re.Ca. Bruxelles-Brussel
HORECA Vlaanderen
Fed. Ho.Re.Ca. Wallonie

CZECH REPUBLIC

AHRCR - The Czech Association of Hotels and Restaurants

CYPRUS

CHA - Cyprus Hotel Association

CROATIA

UPUHH - Association of Employers in Hospitality Industry

DENMARK

HORESTA - Association of the Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Industry in Denmark

ESTONIA

EHRA - Estonian Hotel and Restaurant Association

FINLAND

FHA - Finnish Hospitality Association

FRANCE

CPIH - Confédération des Professionnels Indépendants de l'Hôtellerie
FAGIHT - Fédération Autonome Générale de l'Industrie Hôtelière Touristique
GNC - Groupement National des Chaînes
SYNHORCAT - Syndicat National des Hôteliers, Restaurateurs, Cafetiers et Traiteurs
UMIH - Union des Métiers et des Industries de l'Hôtellerie

GERMANY

DEHOGA - Deutscher Hotel-und Gaststättenverband
IHA-D - Hotelverband Deutschland

GREECE

HCH - Hellenic Chamber of Hotels

HUNGARY

HHRA - Hungarian Hotel and Restaurant Association

IRELAND

IHF - Irish Hotels Federation
RAI - Restaurants Association of Ireland

ITALY

FEDERALBERGHI - Federazione delle Associazioni Italiane Alberghi e Turismo
FIPE - Federazione Italiana Pubblici Esercizi

LATVIA

AHRL - Association of Hotels and Restaurants of Latvia

LITHUANIA

LHRA - Lithuanian Hotel and Restaurant Association

LUXEMBOURG

HORESCA - Fédération Nationale des Hôteliers, Restaurateurs et Cafetiers

MALTA

MHRA - Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association

NETHERLANDS

KHN - Koninklijk HORECA Nederland

NORWAY

NHO - Reiseliv-Norwegian Hospitality Association

PORTUGAL

AHP - Associação da Hotelaria de Portugal
AHRESP - Associação da Restauração e Similares de Portugal
APHORT - Associação Portuguesa de Hotelaria, Restauração e Turismo

SLOVAKIA

ZHRSR - The Slovak Association of Hotels and Restaurants

SPAIN

CEHAT - Confederación Española de Hoteles y Alojamientos Turísticos
FEHR - Federación Española de Hostelería

SWEDEN

VISITA - Swedish Hospitality Industry

SWITZERLAND

GASTROSUISSE - Hotels and Restaurants
HOTELLERIESUISSE - Suisse Hotel Association

THE UNITED KINGDOM

BBPA - British Beer and Pub Association
BHA - British Hospitality Association

TURKEY

TUORB - Touristic Hotels & Investors Association
TÜROFED - Turkish Hoteliers Federation



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