

## **The newly elected Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee will concentrate on the so-called “Sharing” Economy, job creation, education and training**

**Malta, 20 October 2016 – On the occasion of its 73<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, HOTREC, the umbrella association of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafés in Europe, elected the members of its Sector Social Dialogue Committee (SSD) and put forward its main priorities for the next two years.**

Jean-Marc Banquet d’Orx was re-elected for a two years mandate as Chair of the SSD Committee. He is a member of the SSD since 2009. Mr. Banquet d’Orx is the founder and chairman of the LONGITUDE HOTELS Group and assumes the tasks of General Treasurer of UMIH National since 2008. Santa Graikste (Latvia); Andrew Muscat (Malta); Dave Dankaerts (Belgium); István Kovács (Hungary) are the other elected SSD members.

HOTREC, together with EFFAT, its trade-union counterpart, aim at concentrating priority actions during 2017 in particular on the so-called “sharing” economy in order to help establishing a level playing field and fair competition in hospitality and tourism. Another priority will focus on job creation and on developing employment, education and training. This will include continuing promoting the Hospitality Skills Passport - an online tool accessible in all EU official languages developed to facilitate the contact between jobseekers and employers in the sector, with the aim of facilitating mobility in the European labour market. The social partners work programme will also include improving the quality and the attractiveness of apprenticeship schemes through best practices sharing.

*“The hospitality sector employs more than 10 million people. It is, therefore, essential that a solid dialogue amongst the social partners on European initiatives concerning social affairs continues to be developed in order for the sector to continue creating more jobs and increase its competitiveness”, commented Jean-Marc Banquet D’Orx, Chair of the HOTREC SSD.*



***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 30 different European countries.

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

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