



## **HOTREC elects Mr. Andrew Agius Muscat from the Malta Hotel and Restaurant Association to its Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee**

**The Hague, 6 November 2015** – On the occasion of its 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, HOTREC, the business association representing the European hospitality industry, announced today the re-election of Mr. Andrew Agius Muscat, from the Malta Hotel and Restaurant Association (MHRA), to its Social Sectoral Dialogue Committee.

Mr. Agius Muscat together with the other SSD members will continue to develop the new social dialogue programme aimed at fostering youth employment, upgrading skills and competences and developing education and training schemes for the tourism sector. The programme will be developed together with HOTREC trade-union counterpart, EFFAT, and the representatives of the European Commission.

*“I am honoured to have Mr. Andrew Agius Muscat on the board of the sectoral social dialogue committee. Mr. Muscat has played a key role during the last 2 years to foster social dialogue and to engage in a quality dialogue with the trade unions on hospitality related matters”,* said Ms. Susanne Kraus-Winkler, President of HOTREC. *The sector provides more than 10 million jobs in Europe and it is key to fight unemployment and, in particular, youth unemployment. Therefore, discussions and exchange of views amongst social partners on European measures related to social affairs are of the utmost importance”,* concluded Ms. Kraus-Winkler.

The social dialogue committee runs HOTREC’s sectoral social dialogue with its trade-union partner EFFAT, based on the mandate conferred by the General Assembly. HOTREC’s SSD Committee is now composed of its Chairman Jean-Marc Banquet d’Orx (UMIH, France) and of István Kovács (HHRA, Hungary), Andrea Stocco (FIPE, Italy), Santa Graikste (LVRA, Latvia) and Andrew Agius Muscat (MHRA, Malta).

### ***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 28 different European countries.

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

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