

UMIH and SILB-FIPE join the European Alcohol and Health Forum

<u>Brussels, 15 April 2014</u> – During the 14th plenary session of the European Alcohol and Health Forum, UMIH (Union des Métiers et des Industries de l'Hôtellerie) and SILB-FIPE (Associazone Italiana Imprese di Intrattenimento di Ballo e di Spettacolo), two members of HOTREC, presented their respective commitments at the European Alcohol and Health Forum. The two associations were welcomed to join the Forum.

On 9 April 2014, UMIH (France) and SILB-FIPE (Italy) joined the European Alcohol and Health Forum under the umbrella of HOTREC.

UMIH committed to encourage the creation of a specific training for associations selling alcoholic beverages (especially focusing on student's nights, temporary bars and festive evenings) and to inform and advise regularly its members on risks associated with alcohol.

SILB-FIPE committed to implement its code of ethics on self-regulation for road safety (which includes encouraging the designated driver not to drink alcohol) and to comply with the SILB code of conduct (which includes advising its members not to serve alcohol to minors between 16 and 18 years old, even if the age limit to consume e.g. draft beer is 16 years old in Italy).

"These two new commitments show the engagement of the hospitality sector in developing initiatives, at national level, on a voluntary basis, in accordance with responsible patterns of consumption and the willingness of the sector to curb alcohol-related harm. HOTREC continues encouraging all its members to develop actions according with these two goals", commented Mr. Kent Nyström, President of HOTREC.

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 27 different European countries.

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