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Articles of your interest

GENERAL POLICY ISSUES

Interview of MEP Istvan Ujhelyi, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Transport & Tourism (TRAN) Committee



MEP István Ujhelyi is Vice Chair of the Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee and Chair of the TRAN Tourism Task Force. He is also a key member of the Parliamentary Intergroup on the development of European Tourism, Cultural Heritage, Ways of Saint James and other European cultural routes. HOTREC asked Mr. Ujhelyi (S&D, Hungary) to share his views on the activities of the European Parliament about tourism.

What are the most important tasks for Tourism policy for the following 2,5 years?

Even 168 hours in a week are not enough to fight for Tourism. My main role is to represent Tourism policy and make the sector visible in the decision making system, and put tourism on that level it deserves. Tourism is the sector where sustainable jobs can be created and we have to work on it to have more jobs. The other main aim to involve the young generation. The third main issue is to deal with security, as Tourism is the industry of peace. I have a vision on the importance of Tourism, that is why it is included in the programme of the Tourism Task Force. In March we have an exchange of views on the present situation on VISA Code, the reciprocity issue and ETIAS legislation. For the future sessions we have many interesting topics, like digitalisation and its role in the re-industrialisation of Europe, the funds for the Tourism sector, especially how to get funding through the EFSI funds. In wider term I would like to get together all those sectors where Tourism is an important asset. That is why we held events on connectivity between the different transport modes and tourism, how circuses and aqua-parks can boost the tourism industry.

You are an initiator of numerous pilot projects and preparatory actions. What is the state of play in these?

Two projects are in the implementation phase, these are the World Bridge Tourism and the Youth on the SPOT programmes. The first project has a real added value to create a successful China – EU Tourism Year for 2018. We are working with the Commission on the Capital of Tourism preparatory action. It is just after the first interim evaluation and becoming reality in 2018. The opinions of the stakeholders are included in the final proposal, and they will have an important role in the later phases.

Antonio Tajani became President of the Parliament and he is a strong advocate for Tourism. Do you think to have a stronger representation of Tourism in the coming years?

I think absolutely yes. He can have an incentive role, if he understands the potential of Tourism as President of the EP. On inter-institutional level I have many ideas how to build a stronger relationship between UNWTO and EP this year. I would like to have the Tourism Manifesto more visible, and one of my main focuses to have invited Tourism Stakeholders to our regular Task-Force meetings. HOTREC has an important role in this process.

SHADOW HOSPITALITY

HOTREC met Commissioner Bienkowska and presents 5 key principles to foster a responsible and fair 'collaborative' economy



Mr. Manolis Psarros (Managing Director of Toposohpy), Ms. Susanne Kraus-Winkler (President of HOTREC), Mr. Christian de Barrin (CEO of HOTREC) and Mr. Ramón Estalella (Chair of HOTREC's collaborative economy Task Force) meeting with EU Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska in January 2017.

The President of HOTREC, Susanne Kraus-Winkler, the Chair of HOTREC's so called collaborative economy Task Force Ramon Estalella, Manolis Psarros, Director General of TOPOSOPHY and the CEO of HOTREC, Christian de Barrin met Commissioner Bienkowska early January to draw her attention on the importance of levelling the playing field in the field of short term rental services and to promote healthy competition.

The HOTREC Delegation expressed its full support to the 3 criteria set by the Commission in its Communication of June 2 2016 and outlined in particular the absolute necessity of differentiating professionals (businesses) from occasional users to make the market fully transparent and to ensure a fair, competitive and dynamic accommodation market.

On 14 February 2017, at the occasion of the European Commission's 1st workshop aimed at developing guiding principles on how the so called collaborative economy should be regulated, the CEO of HOTREC, Christian de Barrin presented the European hospitality industry's **5 key pillars** to foster a responsible and fair 'collaborative' economy.

HOTREC strongly believes that collaborative economy type of activities shall be fully integrated in the overall European economy, based on 5 common principles:

- Official recognition of the activity through a registration,
- Clear distinction between professionals and individuals,
- A clear fiscal framework which ensures taxes due are paid,
- Health, safety and security of users / consumers are ensured, and
- All players, including service providers, platforms and authorities are committed to transparency and to act responsibly.

These 5 key pillars shall contribute to the serie of workshops related to the European Commission's initiative to elaborate sectorial guidelines for the tourist accommodation sector in the 'collaborative' economy, which shall be completed in September 2017. The overall aim should be that consumer rights are better protected, fiscal revenues are paid, black and grey economy declines and all businesses benefit from a healthy competition.

Actions:

The following presentation was made at the 1st Commission workshop on 14 February 2017: [link](#)

The following presentation was made at the 2nd Commission workshop on 13 March 2017: [link](#)

HOTREC position:

HOTREC will continue contributing to the ongoing European discussions on the matter and believes that the collaborative economy can only be successful on the long term, if the interests of relevant stakeholders, including among others businesses, residents and public bodies are well taken into account.

ACCESSIBILITY

Work on International Standard on Accessibility in Tourism started



Following the approval of the New Work Item Proposal to develop an ISO (International Standardisation Organisation) standard on Accessibility in Tourism, work has started mid-February 2017 with the lead of the United Nations' World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). The aim is to develop an international standard covering the various aspects of tourism, including transportation, cultural heritage, natural environments, the built environment, etc. The final product is intended to also take into account the specificities of small enterprises allowing for them as well to make the best possible use of the document.

The work is based on already existing recommendations, guidelines and requirements, and is supported also by the contribution of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT).

Actions:

HOTREC is an active partner in the development of this international standard. It contributes to the drafting and elaboration of the content.

HOTREC Position:

- *HOTREC is actively contributing to the development of this international standard, which shall aim increasing the accessibility of tourism services in a more harmonised manner.*
- *HOTREC considers, that as the vast majority of hospitality providers are to 91% micro enterprises, employing fewer than 10 people, their specificities in terms of available know-how and financial and human resources should be well taken into account.*

European Accessibility Act – Discussions in the European Parliament accelerate – Tourism to be covered?

Following the December 2015 publication of a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services, discussions in the European Parliament have accelerated. The amendments to the opinions in the different committees are now available and shall be voted in the coming weeks.

Some of the amendments propose the inclusion of tourism or tourist accommodation services in the scope of the Directive, which was not the case in the proposal of the European Commission. The inclusion of the tourism sector or parts of it (accommodation) would mean a new dimension in the overall scope of the Directive, including a sector which is mainly characterised by micro-enterprises, compared to the sectors currently included in the proposed scope.

NET, the Network for the European Private Sector in Tourism, sent a letter to Members of the European Parliament asking them not to include tourism services in the scope of the Directive. NET as well as HOTREC consider, that accessibility of tourism and hospitality services is to a great extent already regulated at national level, where the adaptation capacity of this micro-enterprise dominated sector can be better taken into account, compared to a one-size-fits-all European approach. Moreover, hospitality associations across Europe have developed voluntary initiatives with organisations of people with disabilities elaborating guidelines and tools for this micro-enterprise dominated sector to enhance making their service even more accessible.

HOTREC Position:

- *HOTREC calls for the non-inclusion of hospitality and tourism services in the scope of the Directive.*
- *HOTREC considers that the issue of accessibility is well taken care of at national level, where the specificities of the local tourism markets can be better taken into account concerning the adaptability of the sector, than a one-size-fits-all European approach.*
- *HOTREC fears that putting a too big burden at European level on the hospitality sector and especially the hundreds of thousands of micro enterprises would seriously jeopardise the viability of such enterprises, especially as little financial incentives or funding are in sight to make the adaptation especially of the built environment a bearable burden.*

FOOD

Food Waste Reduction targets: towards a flexible obligation of means to achieve an EU target?



On 24 January 2017, the ENVI (Environment, Public Health & food Safety) Committee adopt its report on the revision of the Waste Framework Directive.

The report adopts a liberal approach towards the target to halve food waste by 2030 on which the 28 Member States committed in the U.N. Indeed, instead of opting for a binding obligation of results for each Member States, the ENVI Committee voted in favour of a Member States obligation to "aim to achieve" an EU food waste reduction target "of 30% by 2025 and of 50% by 2030 compared to the 2014 baseline". To do so, the Member States shall take measures to reduce the total generation of food waste and reduce food losses along the whole supply chain.

The ENVI report also confirms Member States obligations to measure the levels of food waste, on the basis of a common EU methodology to be adopted by the European Commission at a later stage. It also makes it mandatory to sort at source bio-waste (with a safeguard clause for sparsely populated areas) and recommends Member States to use economic incentives to encourage the implementation of waste prevention measures.

Next Steps:

The report should be adopted by the European Parliament in plenary session on 14 March 2017. The Council is expected to adopt a common position during the 1st semester 2017.

HOTREC position:

- *The hospitality industry is a small waster compared to other segment of the food chain, but is nonetheless acting in a responsible manner by promoting best practices to reduce food waste;*
 - *HOTREC welcomes the ENVI report which opts for an obligation of means for Member States to help achieving a Union food waste reduction target, as it leaves the necessary flexibility to adapt to national/local circumstances;*
 - *HOTREC considers that food waste reduction measures should primarily focus on bigger wasters;*
 - *Funding should be provided to incentivize the development of schemes meant to collect unsold food in restaurants in view of their re-use as a source of feed or energy. Similar funding should be available for donations to charitable organizations;*
 - *Measurement of food waste should be the responsibility of the Member States authorities.*
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HOTREC presented to the European Parliament its new guidelines to reduce food waste



Mr. Emilio Gallego Zuazo (Secretary General of FEHR), Mr. Adrian Cummins (CEO of Restaurant Association of Ireland), Mr. Christian de Barrin (CEO of HOTREC), MEP Biljana Borzan, Mr Danny van Assche (CEO of HORECA Vlaanderen), Ms. Maria Heider (Director for EU Affairs for METRO Group), Mr. Christian Reuter (Legal Advisor on food law, DEHOGA) and Mr. Patrick Alix (Secretary General of FEBA) on the margin of the MEP breakfast on food waste.

On 31 January 2017, HOTREC and MEP Biljana Borzan (S&D, Croatia), rapporteur for the European Parliament initiative report on food waste, organised an MEP breakfast event in the European Parliament on food waste reduction in the hospitality sector.

While recalling that the European hospitality industry is already a small food waster (e.g. the food service sector generates only 12% of the overall food waste in Europe, of which the hospitality industry represents only a share, as the food service sector also includes party catering and contract catering), HOTREC presented on that occasion the many activities developed by the sector to further reduce this low proportion of food waste.

In particular, HOTREC unveiled its new guidelines to reduce food waste in hospitality businesses, as well as its joint recommendations with FEBA (The European Federation of Food Banks) to manage food donations.

During the event, some best-practices from the hospitality sector in Belgium, Germany and Spain were also presented, together with similar examples from METRO. The event gathered many participants (from DG Santé and DG Environment of the European Commission, from the European Parliament as well as stakeholders active in the food chain), who discussed and praised the initiatives and best-practices presented by HOTREC and its members.

To access the full HOTREC guidelines and the best-practices presented at the event, please [click here](#).

Final adoption of the new EU Regulation on official controls



On 15 March 2017, the European Parliament will definitively adopt the final Official Controls Regulation, which will enter into force soon after its publication in the Official Journal.

The new Regulation provides that:

- Inspection fees are not mandatory for hygiene controls in restaurants and other retail premises. However Member States keep the possibility to charge fees if they wish so;
- Member States have the possibility (but not the obligation) to set-up rating schemes on the hygiene performance of food business operators, provided that some conditions are met;
- There is no obligation to publish the result of individual controls (unless there is a clear risk to human health, as provided for in other existing EU Regulations).

HOTREC position:

- *HOTREC welcomes the outcome of the legislative process as it leaves the choice to Member States as whether to charge inspection fees for controls in restaurants or not.*
 - *HOTREC also welcomes the freedom left to Member States authorities on whether to publish the result of individual controls or on whether to set-up rating schemes for the performance of food business operators.*
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DIGITAL ISSUES

EP draft report on Online Platforms is published



As a response to the European Commission's Communication on online platforms of May 2016, the European Parliament is working on an own-initiative report. The first draft of this report, prepared by MEP rapporteurs Henna Virkkunen and Philippe Juvin (ITRE and IMCO Committee, EPP) was made available on 28 February 2017.

In the draft report, the rapporteurs acknowledge that online platforms provide benefits to today's digital economy and society, however also present new policy and regulatory challenges. The rapporteurs stress that the internet of the future cannot succeed without users' trust in online platforms, greater transparency, better control of ranking systems and advertising.

A specific section is devoted to B2B relations and EU competition law, where the rapporteurs express their concerns about problematic B2B practices by online platforms, such as a lack of transparency in search results. The text also questions whether the traditional reasoning inherent in EU competition law may still be fit for purpose.

The draft report is available [here](#).

State of Play:

The draft EP report was published on 28 February, the adoption in the IMCO and ITRE Committees of the European Parliament is foreseen for mid-May.

Actions:

HOTREC will meet Members of the European Parliament involved in the development of this report and will also put forward some proposals for amendments to the report.

HOTREC position

- *HOTREC considers, that online platforms, at least the ones related to the hospitality sector, are gaining more and more on dominance. Almost 2/3 of the hotel bookings done via Online Travel Agents are done via one single platform, namely Booking.com.*
 - *This dominance is creating ground for practices by platforms, which both businesses and consumers consider unfair, like limiting the entrepreneurial freedom of service providers, or hiding paid for rankings from consumers.*
 - *HOTREC considers, that, while recognising the opportunities online platforms bring, a better balance on the market of platforms needs to be achieved on the short term, as the unfair practices experienced by businesses are depriving them to fully exploit their potentials and are resulting in unjustified additional costs.*
-

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Consultation results on European Pillar of Social Rights unveiled



On 23 January 2017, the European Commission organised a high level conference with the aim of presenting the results of the consultation on the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#).

The [first preliminary outline](#) of the Pillar presented by the European Commission on 14 September 2016, included proposals in the areas of access to the labour market; fair working conditions and adequate and sustainable social protection. The conference counted with the presence of several Commissioners, including President Juncker; Commissioner Jourová, responsible for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality or Commissioner Bieńkowska, responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs. Members of the European Parliament, namely President Antonio Tajani, as well as Ministries from several countries also participated to the event. It was mentioned that, in general terms, employers were of the opinion that social challenges will only be tackled through economic growth, creation of new wealth and expansion of employment. Employers would, therefore, privilege benchmarks that would improve the framework conditions for job creation and labour market integration.

On the other hand, trade unions defended that social inequalities and social dumping should be stopped and advocated for a pay raise for fairness at work; fair mobility and a stronger social protection. It is to be mentioned that the European Parliament, in an own-initiative report drafted by Maria João Rodrigues (S&D/Portugal) and voted on 19 January 2017 in plenary, called upon a framework directive on decent working conditions in all areas of employment, including minimum standards for apprenticeships and trainings and restrictions on standby work to help distinguish people who really are self-employed from those who are effectively engaged in an employment contract.

Next steps:

European Commission to present the European Pillar of Social Rights on April 2017.

HOTREC Position:

- *HOTREC views the setting up of benchmarks positively, if their purposes are to support all EU Member States in the improvement of framework conditions for job creation and labour market integration, with a focus on competitiveness and employment. Benchmarks could provide reference to support national implementation of structural reforms with a focus on labour markets, education and training systems and social systems in all Member States. If benchmarks are developed, they should be developed in concertation between Council, Commission, Member States and social partners;*
 - *Better enforcement and application of existing EU social legislation and cutting red tape should be objectives to be achieved.*
-

Social partners meet the Director General of Directorate General Employment -to call for action

The Chair of the HOTREC Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee, Jean-Marc Banquet d'Orx together with the CEO of HOTREC, Christian de Barrin and Marta Machado, Public Affairs Manager of HOTREC, along with Kerstin Hoswald Secretary General for Tourism of EFFAT met Mr Laurent Servoz, Director General of DG Employment.

HOTREC and EFFAT raised concerns on the further development of a grey or even black economy if the so called collaborative economy is not swiftly regulated and recalled the need to assess its economic and social impact for the tourism industry. The overall aim should be that black and grey economy declines and all businesses benefit from a healthy competition.

The agenda of the discussion also included the promotion of jobs opportunities through the increased visibility of the hospitality skills passport, also to respond to the shortage of skills, and the need to provide funding in particular to improve the image of the sector and to foster apprenticeships and career path through ongoing training in particular on digitalisation and languages.

Upcoming Interpretative Communication on Working Time Directive



On January 2017 the European Commission launched a consultation on an Interpretative Communication on the Working Time Directive (non-binding document). A hearing on the same topic was organised on 19 January 2017 by the Commission.

The initiative will be one of the concrete outputs linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights and the main objectives are to:

- Ensure legal certainty and clarity;
- Take account of current trends in the world of work;
- Secure the protection of all workers who work atypical or excessive hours.

The Interpretative Communication would bring together the provisions of the Directive and Court's case-law in order to help the Member States, where necessary, to adapt their national legislation in an efficient manner to the development of applicable jurisprudence. Moreover, it aims to provide as much legal guidance as possible on remaining points, which the Court has not yet ruled out. The document will be non-binding.

Next steps:

The European Commission to issue the Interpretative Communication by 2017.

HOTREC position:

- *HOTREC accepts a non-legislative approach from the EU on the matter but it believes that solutions can be found through collective agreements and national legislation;*
 - *Flexible working time arrangements are key for the sector to exist;*
 - *The European Court of Justice rulings go far beyond the minimum standards provided by the Directive and on topics such as on-call time and compensatory rest the rulings brought even more administrative and financial burdens to employers;*
 - *A level playing field should be established vis-à-vis sharing economy.*
-

A practical guidance to employers on Health and Safety at Work is available!



On 10 January 2017 the European Commission released a Communication on the results of the evaluation on the EU OSH legislation (COM(2017) 12final). The evaluation showed that OSH legislation is the reference frame for national OSH rules and overall remains fit for purpose, as it helps, together with Member States, to improve health and safety of workers in the EU.

Amongst the actions included in the Communication it is to highlight the practical guidelines published by the Commission to help businesses apply health and safety measures.

From the catalogue it is to highlight:

- The need for every company to carry out a risk assessment to evaluate the risks;
- Usually the risk assessment can be done by the companies themselves, by using different tools (e.g. [OIRA](#));
- OIRA is an online interactive Risk Assessment tool, easy-to-use and cost free. With OIRA all steps of the risk assessment can be conducted: starting with the identification and evaluation of workplace risks, decision-making and implementation of preventive actions, monitoring and reporting;
- In many countries having a risk assessment report generated through OIRA or equivalent tools may be considered as compliance with risk assessment obligation – it is important to check with national legislation or with the national labour inspectorates if in doubt;
- Employers should be able to prioritise the risk and write down the results of the risk assessment and keep a written record for reference;
- Employers need to provide adequate OSH training to their workers and give them the information and instructions they need.

Actions:

HOTREC and its trade union counterpart, EFFAT, will discuss possible joint actions at EU level to further disseminate the OIRA tool at the next Sectorial Social Dialogue meeting, taking place on 24 March 2017.

HOTREC Position:

- *HOTREC very much welcomes the Commission guidelines, as it considers that they provide practical instructions to companies, including SMEs, so that all entrepreneurs are alerted to their obligations related to Health and Safety at work;*
 - *HOTREC encourages National Associations to contact their public authorities and social partners and adapt the OIRA tool to any particular needs at national level. This tool is free and, if it is agreed by public authorities that it can be used as a proof of risk assessment towards labour inspectorates, it should be widely disseminated and used.*
-

TOURISM

HOTREC and UNWTO strengthens their partnership on sustainability for 2017

At the occasion of ITB, the President of HOTREC, Ms. Susanne Kraus-Winkler and the CEO, Mr. Christian de Barrin met the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Secretary General Mr. Taleb Rifai in Berlin to discuss on how to strengthen sustainable tourism across Europe.

HOTREC published in November 2015 a policy paper on the so-called 'Sharing' economy with the title 'Levelling the playing field', which UNWTO contributed to. Most recently, HOTREC published guidelines to reduce food waste and recommendations to manage food donations as HOTREC's first contribution to the celebrations of the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development 2017.

New topics were discussed to work on together, in particular in relation to tourism and security, energy efficiency in hospitality businesses and gastronomy.

HOTREC will join UNWTO's Task Force on Tourism and Security. In addition, HOTREC will work on developing recommendations for hotels in particular, but also for restaurants, to generate energy savings.

As 2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, HOTREC will also be working on promoting gastronomy together with UNWTO and other stakeholders within an event to take place in Brussels.

Danger: exemption of visa waiver to Americans might be suspended!



On 2 March 2016, the European Parliament approved a non-binding Motion for Resolution pressuring the European Commission to adopt a delegated act, which would lead to the temporary suspension of the visa waiver to U.S citizens.

The reasons behind count with the fact that the U.S. still requires visas for the citizens of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania. Even though the European Commission is legally required to implement the delegated act, it defends in its Communication ([COM\(2016\)481 final](#)) that political and economic consequences of the act should as well be taken into account.

In fact, Commissioner Avramopoulos explained at a debate taken at a plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg (14 December 2016) that it seemed certain that temporarily suspending the visa waiver for US citizens would immediately lead to a visa requirement imposed on all EU citizens. Moreover, a study for the World Travel and Tourism Council suggests that suspending the visa waiver would annually lead to a 22% drop in visitors to the European Union, or 5.5 million fewer visitors from the United States and Canada. This will be equal to a loss of EUR 6.8 billion annually, risking the loss of 140 000 jobs in the tourism industry.

State of Play:

The Commission announced that it will issue a progress report before the end of June 2017.

Actions:

NET – The Network for the European Private Sector in Tourism, of which HOTREC is part and ETC sent a joint letter to all European Parliament Members before the vote, asking for the Motion for Resolution not to be approved. NET and ETC will also meet with Council Presidency.

HOTREC position:

- *Currently, travellers from the U.S. and Canada account for the largest percentage of all European arrivals. Arrivals from the two markets reached 30.3 million tourists;*
- *The economic impact that closing the doors to U.S citizens would have for tourism purposes needs to be taken into account, as well as the damage of the external relations between the EU and the U.S;*
- *HOTREC encourages the European Commission to continue intense bilateral negotiations with the U.S., so that full reciprocity in the application of the visa waiver will also apply to Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania.*

Council approves prolongation of controls inside Schengen



On 7 February 2017, the Council of the EU adopted without debate the recommendation allowing Germany, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway to extend by three more months the controls on the internal borders of the Schengen zone due to migration flows.

The prolongation began after 11 February 2017, the date foreseen for the previous controls to expire. The European Commission agreed with this prolongation, but asked the countries to consider alternative measures.

HOTREC position:

- *HOTREC believes that the freedom of movement of people across Schengen is one of the fundamental pillars of the EU;*
- *HOTREC hopes that the reintroduction of border controls is only a temporary measure and that the free circulation will be installed as soon as possible, within a secure environment.*

COPYRIGHT

The ECJ considers that broadcasting organisations cannot claim the payment of neighbouring rights for TV in hotel rooms

On 16 January 2017, the European Court of Justice held its judgement on a reference for a preliminary ruling from an Austrian court about a dispute between an Austrian hotel and a collecting body representing the broadcasting organisation about the payment of neighbouring rights for TV in hotel rooms.

In its judgement, the ECJ considered that Directive 2006/115 on rental and lending rights does not give broadcasters a right to claim to hotels the payment of neighbouring rights for the broadcasts transmitted through TVs in the hotel rooms. The ECJ considered in particular that while the Directive gives broadcasters an exclusive right to authorise the communication to the public of their broadcasts (against a license fee) in places accessible to the public against an entrance fee, the price of a hotel room cannot be assimilated to an entrance fee. Therefore, broadcasters cannot claim the payment of a neighbouring right for their broadcasts to hotels for TVs in hotel rooms.

The ECJ also took that opportunity to recall and re-affirm the validity of its other judgements concerning copyright claims for TV in hotel rooms. The consequence is that, while author and phonogram producers have a right to claim a license fee for TV in hotel rooms, broadcasters do not have such rights for their broadcasts (at least not on the basis of Directive 2006/115 on lending rights).

To access the full judgement please [click here](#).

HOTREC position:

- *HOTREC welcomes the ECJ judgement which clearly states that broadcasters cannot claim a license fee for their broadcasting rights to hotels which make TVs available to their guests in the hotel rooms.*
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HEALTH

Danish public private partnership on responsible alcohol consumption presented at the European Parliament



On 7th February 2017, MEP Morten Petersen (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats/Denmark) hosted an event at the European Parliament with the aim of presenting the public private partnership on responsible alcohol consumption.

The Danish Partnership for a responsible alcohol consumption was founded in 2014. Partners include a large part of the value chain: producers of alcohol, retailers, restaurants, bars and cafés. The partnership received economic support from the Danish Ministry of Health for campaigns, promoting a responsible alcohol consumption in Denmark.

The following campaigns organised under the umbrella of the partnership are to be highlighted:

- Enforcement of legal age limits in the retail sector: making sure that alcohol is not sold to young people under 16 or 18 years old (depending type of drink); that the hospitality retailers ask for the ID; that the campaign is noticed by young people and that the staff is helped in its task not to sell alcohol to underage. The results showed that 42% of employees in the stores responded that the campaign had a positive effect in their work; 35% of the adolescent became aware of the campaign; 90% of activity of Facebook was done by the target group (adolescents aged 13 to 21);
- Nightlife safety – the campaign will be launched during 2017. It will focus on friendship / fellowship. The aim is to catch the attention of adolescents and start a debate on the consequences of binge drinking in relation to safety, inappropriate behaviour.

Actions:

HORESTA/Denmark (HOTREC member) is part of the partnership. The campaigns developed in Denmark are going to be presented at the next HOTREC General Assembly in Estonia, in order for best practices to be shared.

HOTREC Position

- *HOTREC strongly supports and encourages members to implement measures that enforce age limits when serving and selling alcohol and develop information programmes on responsible drinking as part of its commitment to the European Alcohol and Health Forum;*
 - *HOTREC believes on the advantages of the Alcohol Forum, as a platform of exchange of good practices. HOTREC hopes that the plenary meetings will restart being called upon by the European Commission in the upcoming months.*
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DATA PROTECTION

How can companies transfer personal data to third countries?



On 10 January 2017, the European Commission issued a Communication ([COM\(2017\)7 final](#)) on the strategic approach to international personal data transfers.

The tools are described already in the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR ([Regulation\(EU\)2016/279](#)) and include:

- Adequacy decisions – decision taken by the Commission establishing that a third country provides a comparable level of protection of personal data to that in the European Union, through its domestic law and international commitments;
- Standard Data Protection Clauses (SCCs) and Binding Cooperate Rules (BCRs) – in the absence of an adequacy decision, transfers between companies can be based on SCCs, while BCRs can be used for transfers within a corporate group;
- Approved codes of conduct and accredited party-certifications –these provide companies with the possibility to introduce tailor-made solutions for international transfers;
- Derogations – for instance in the form of consent, performance of a contract or important reasons of public interest which entities can use in specific situations. A derogation has been added in the GDPR for transfers carried out in pursuit of the legitimate interests of a company.

HOTREC Position:

- *HOTREC advises all members to carefully raise awareness of companies of the impact of the new GDPR in the hospitality sector. The Regulation will enter into force in May 2018 and will replace the national legislation substituting the current Data Protection Directive.*

STATISTICS

Recent publications

[Eurostat publishes 2017 edition of Tourism Satellite Accounts](#): On 16 February 2017, Eurostat issued the 3rd edition of the Tourism Satellite Accounts, providing some insight into the macroeconomic aspects of tourism across Europe.

[Eurostat - Number of tourism nights in 2016](#): On 24 January 2017, Eurostat published its observations for the tourism nights spent in Europe in 2016. The number of nights spent in tourist accommodation establishments reached 2,8 billion, which means an increase by 2% compared to 2015. The number of nights spent grew especially in Bulgaria, Slovakia and Poland (all above an increase of 11%), while France and the UK experienced a decrease of 4,6 and 4,5% respectively.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Next Meetings and General Assemblies

In the coming months, HOTREC will organise and/or participate to the following meetings.

- 16 March 2017 (Brussels, Belgium) – European Commission workshop on unfair B2B practices and online platforms. HOTREC will participate.
 - 17 March 2017 (Rome, Italy) – Seminar on the national transposition of the Package Travel Directive into national law across Europe organised by Confcommercio, Federalberghi and ConfTurismo. HOTREC will participate as panellist.
 - 20 March 2017 (Brussels, Belgium) – EU platform on food losses and food waste – subgroup meeting on food donations. HOTREC will participate.
 - 21 March 2017 (Brussels, Belgium) - SAFE Annual Conference "*EU Food Safety Regulation: Putting Consumers First*"- The conference will focus on acrylamide and healthy food. HOTREC will participate.
 - 24 March 2017 (Brussels, Belgium) – Sectorial Social Dialogue Committee meeting
 - 28-29 March 2017 (Madrid, Spain) – UNWTO working group on an international convention for the protection of tourists and the rights and obligations of tourism service providers. HOTREC will participate.
 - 31 March 2017 (Brussels, Belgium) – EU platform on food losses and food waste – subgroup meeting on food waste measurement. HOTREC will participate.
 - 6 April (Brussels, Belgium) - 7th European University Business Forum – University Business Cooperation conference where the topic of modernisation and skills will be addressed. HOTREC will be present in one of the workshops.
 - 27-28 April 2017 (Tallinn, Estonia) – HOTREC holds its 74th General Assembly.
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