

- PRESS RELEASE -

## SMEs welcome the result of the trilogue negotiations on the General Data Protection Regulation

**Brussels, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015** – HOTREC (the umbrella Association of Hotels, Restaurants and Cafes in Europe) and UEAPME (the employers' organisation representing the interests of European crafts, trades and SMEs) welcome the result of the trilogue negotiations between the Council of the EU and the European Parliament on a General Data Protection Regulation and on the [outcome of the vote](#) at the LIBE Committee. The Data Protection Officer is now, as a rule, not made compulsory for companies, especially not for SMEs, whose core business is not data processing.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament approved the agreement reached at the trilogue negotiations between the Council of the EU and the European and Parliament on a proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation. As an outcome of the discussions, the Data Protection Officer (DPO) is only made mandatory under the following circumstances:

- the processing of the data is carried out by a public authority, or
- the core activities of the company consist of processing operations, which by virtue of nature, scope or purposes require regular monitoring of data subjects on a large scale, or
- the core activities of the company consist of processing special categories of data on a large scale (e.g. criminal convictions or revealing political opinions, etc.).

*“The hospitality industry warmly welcomes the result of the trilogue negotiations for SMEs not to be obliged to use the services of a DPO while their core business is not data processing. Indeed, 91% of the hospitality industry is composed of micro enterprises for which any administrative and economic burden would be detrimental”,* highlighted Christian de Barrin, CEO of HOTREC.

*“SMEs are the backbone of the European economy. The Think Small First principle should apply to all pieces of new legislation. UEAPME is delighted that the voice of the SMEs has been heard at the highest level of the discussions”,* stressed UEAPME Secretary General, Peter Faross.

HOTREC and UEAPME call on the Council of the EU and the European and Parliament to give their final approval to the text as agreed during the trilogue negotiations.

### **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 29 different European countries. For further information please visit [www.hotrec.eu](http://www.hotrec.eu) or follow [@HOTREC](#) on Twitter.

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### **What is UEAPME?**

UEAPME is the employers' organisation representing exclusively crafts, trades and SMEs from the EU and accession countries at European level. UEAPME has 80 member organisations covering over 12 million enterprises with 55 million employees. UEAPME is a European Social Partner. For further information please visit <http://www.ueapme.com/> or follow [@UEAPME](#) on Twitter.

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