



European Federation of Food,
Agriculture and Tourism Trade
Unions



Hotels, Restaurants & Cafés in Europe

For a level playing field and fair competition in hospitality and tourism

Joint EFFAT-HOTREC Statement on the “Sharing Economy”

During 2014, on the occasion of various meetings of the sectoral social dialogue (SSD) in the European hotel and restaurant sector, EFFAT and HOTREC exchanged views on the topic of the “sharing economy”.

After a more-in-depth discussion at the SSD plenary session on 5 December 2014 on the impact of this phenomenon on employment in the hospitality and tourism sector, EFFAT and HOTREC agreed to include the “sharing economy” in their 2015-2016 work programme.

Positions on the “sharing economy” issued by EFFAT and HOTREC (see below under “Read more”) show that the social partners in the European hotel and restaurant sector share many concerns. Therefore, EFFAT and HOTREC decided to join forces and to come up with a joint statement.

EFFAT and HOTREC, the social partners in the European hotel and restaurant sector, are concerned about the emergence and rapid spread of the “sharing economy” in hospitality and tourism, which is often developing in an uncontrolled and unregulated way.

For this reason, the social partners have decided to strengthen their cooperation and to discuss jointly on how this phenomenon is impacting businesses and employment in the hospitality and tourism sectors, and which actions, together with authorities, should be taken in order to avoid and to repair irregularities on the market.

Hospitality businesses find themselves subject to lots of regulation in all countries, compliance with which often comes at costs and administrative obligations. This concerns in particular areas such as:

- legislation
- fiscal obligations
- registration and permits
- statistical measurement
- safety and security
- employees’ rights and protection
- consumers’ rights
- neighbourhood rights

Hospitality businesses guarantee the health and safety of consumers as well as the rights of employees. Established enterprises in the hospitality sector comply with labour regulations, including collective agreements, and ensure that any employee working in the sector is entitled to all legal rights and obligations. Furthermore, they invest in qualification and training of employees, to ensure the quality of services.

EFFAT and HOTREC fear that the increased offer of accommodation services offered on a commercial basis through “sharing economy” platforms might result in a decrease of regular employment and in the creation of informal jobs, thus extending precarious and undeclared work.

EFFAT and HOTREC call upon the public authorities to collect more coherent data about the scope and the impact of the “sharing economy” on businesses and employment in the hospitality and tourism sector, and to guarantee that legislation is fully respected by and enforced upon all providers of hospitality and tourism services, so that customers are protected, employees are treated fairly and entitled to their rights, and responsible businesses enjoy a fair competitive environment / level playing field.

Brussels, 4 December 2015

For EFFAT

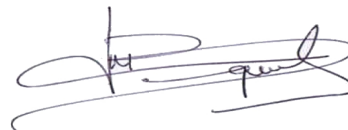
For HOTREC



Harald WIEDENHOFER
General Secretary



Christian de BARRIN
CEO



Jean-Marc BANQUET D'ORX
Chair of SSD

Read more:

- HOTREC Policy Paper on the ‘Sharing’ Economy - “Levelling The Playing Field” including the “HOTREC Chart towards a sustainable and responsible ‘sharing’ economy in tourist accommodation” and the “10 steps of the HOTREC Chart towards a sustainable and responsible ‘sharing’ economy in tourism accommodation”, November 2015
http://www.hotrec.eu/Documents/Document/20151105143558-2015-11-05_Hotrec_Policy_paper.pdf
- EFFAT Tourism Sector Position on “Sharing Economy” in Tourism, November 2015
<http://www.fffat.org/en/node/14164>