16\textsuperscript{th} December 2013

Mr Leo Varadkar, T.D.
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
44 Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Dear Minister,

RE: Proposal of a Directive on package travel and assisted travel arrangements
(2013/0246(COD))

The Commission proposal for a revision of the Package Travel Directive (COM(2013) 512 final) is currently being debated by the Council of the European Union.

The revision of this Directive is an issue of utmost importance for the Irish hospitality industry. Indeed, this Directive is directly affecting the hospitality industry both as a provider of hotel services possibly included in packages and as a provider of some combined tourism services in hotels. Therefore, we would like to bring to your attention our position on this proposal.

The Irish Hotels Federation is concerned by a number of provisions contained in the Commission proposal. For instance, the proposed expansion of the scope of the Directive, the provisions on the right to terminate a contract or on assisted travel arrangements might generate a strong negative impact on the hospitality industry if not amended.

You will find annexed to this letter the proposals made by HOTREC\textsuperscript{1}, our European umbrella association. The Irish Hotels Federation fully supports HOTREC position and proposals, as we consider that they would considerably improve the text of the European
Commission and would ensure that the hospitality industry is not overburdened during these times of economic crisis, while preserving a fair level of consumer protection.

Given the importance of the hospitality industry in Ireland and the potential impact this Directive may have, we hope that you will be able to support our position and proposals in the Council of the EU.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Tim Fenn
Chief Executive

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1 HOTREC represents the hotel, restaurant and café industry at European level. The sector counts 1.8 million businesses, with almost 91% of them being micro enterprises employing less than 10 people. The micro and small enterprises (having less than 50 employees) represent more than 99.5% of businesses and make up some 60% of value added. The industry provides more than 10 million jobs in the EU alone. HOTREC brings together 44 National Associations representing the interest of the industry in 27 different European countries.