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Press release

HOTREC MBS methodology: a modern tool for fire safety in hotels in Europe!

Brussels, 10/02/10 - HOTREC released a state-of-the-art methodology for fire safety in European hotels. This instrument entitled “*Guidelines to fire safety in European hotels - Hotel Fire Safety MBS (Management, Building and Systems) Methodology*” is meant to help hotels of all sizes across Europe achieving a high level of fire safety, whatever the national or local legislation in place.

The MBS methodology is a practical and flexible tool which summarises hotel fire safety into a set of hands-on advices, which any hotelier can easily understand and follow.

Kent Nyström, the President of HOTREC commented: “*I am confident that this new voluntary instrument can help European hoteliers achieving an even higher level of fire safety, while abiding by national and local rules.*”

The methodology is the outcome of a long and difficult process which included, in an open and transparent dialogue, representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, Tour Operators & Travel Agents, insurance industry, consumers, other interested parties and the European hospitality industry. This fruitful dialogue enabled to enrich the methodology with stakeholders’ own experiences on fire safety.

President Nyström stressed: “*HOTREC did its utmost to respond to the aspirations of public authorities, consumers, stakeholders and European hoteliers and this methodology should be welcomed by all as a positive and concrete contribution by the European hospitality industry*”.

The issue of fire safety in hotels in Europe was indeed at a standstill for the last 25 years, as the EU could not agree on any update of its 1986 Recommendation on the matter. The release of this methodology therefore constitutes a major breakthrough and a great success for HOTREC!

So far, some HOTREC national associations from six EU countries (Austria, Denmark, Germany, France, Sweden and the UK) already announced their intention to make use of the MBS methodology and have started reflecting on its incorporation into their own existing fire safety instruments. This methodology could also be looked at carefully by public authorities and bring them to review their rules, moving from a prescriptive towards a risk assessment approach.