

## Press release

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

After long weeks of intense searching led jointly by French and local authorities, we have just learned of the tragic outcome of the kidnapping last April 4 of the Novotel hotel's General Manager, Stéphane Frantz di Rippel. All of our employees are deeply saddened by this event. They share the grief and pain of the families and remain dedicated to supporting Stéphane Frantz di Rippel's loved ones and to helping them through this terrible ordeal. We are still waiting for the results of the investigation concerning the three clients kidnapped simultaneously at Novotel and share their families' fierce anxiety.

Stéphane Frantz di Rippel was much appreciated within the Group, where he was well-known for his professionalism, kindness and generosity. He started his career in France with Accor in 1985. He later joined the Africa region as General Manager of the Novotel and ibis Cotonou and then moved to Togo as General Manager of the Mercure Lomé Sarakawa, before taking over as General Manager of the Novotel Abidjan a few months ago.

*"I am deeply shaken and shocked by this revolting murder," said Denis Hennequin, Chairman and CEO of Accor. "My first thoughts go to our employee's children, family and loved ones. The Group will provide them with all the necessary support at this painful time. This has been a tremendous shock for all of our employees, who have constantly sent messages of support from around the world since the kidnapping."*

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