



## **PRESS RELEASE – For immediate release**

Thursday, 29 June 2017

### **Sarah Branquinho unanimously re-elected to lead ETRC in critical year**

Sarah Branquinho has been re-elected as President of the European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) at the Annual General Meeting today.

In an official statement, Branquinho said: “I am honoured to be re-elected to serve another year as President of ETRC. Brexit presents a huge opportunity for the industry and with Brexit negotiations now in full swing, will occupy centre stage. There are, however, many other important issues on the industry agenda including product labelling, transport security, restrictions on sales of tobacco and alcohol, and I look forward to continuing to strengthen the voice of duty free and travel retail in Europe.”

Over the last 12 months ETRC has already begun a comprehensive lobbying programme across the Europe and UK, calling for an immediate return to duty and tax free sales once the UK leaves the EU.

From both an EU and UK perspective, the immediate return of duty and tax free sales post-Brexit presents huge potential benefits for transport and tourism industries. It would significantly improve connectivity by bolstering the revenues of airports, airlines, ports and ferry operators at a time when there is uncertainty about future rules on the free movement of people and goods.

Sarah Branquinho continued: “We have received positive feedback across Europe for an immediate return to duty free sales once the UK leaves the EU, but this is far from being a done deal. A lot of work needs to be done at a technical and political level to make this a reality and we urgently need the full support of the entire industry.

With over 150 million air passengers and over 40 million passengers by sea and Eurotunnel, an immediate return to duty and tax free sales will be transformational for the industry in Europe. Rest assured that ETRC is doing all it can to ensure a positive outcome.”

**ENDS**

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