



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **ETRC Business Forum – Record attendance debate future industry strategy**

Industry representatives gathered in Amsterdam for the Annual European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) Business Forum to discuss key industry issues and the business outlook.

Year-on-year the ETRC Business Forum has seen an increase in attendance with this year setting a new record with over 150 attendees drawn from the ETRC membership and representing some 90 companies.

Those attending were provided with analysis of industry performance and trends, and in-depth discussions on major developments including Brexit, Beauty trends, digital labelling, new rules on plastics & packaging, and recent experiences with emerging alcohol and tobacco legislation.

On Brexit, ETRC urged members to prepare for all eventualities, including a hard Brexit.

New Corporate members of ETRC attending for the first time included;

- Flemingo Europe (comprising Harding Retail and Baltona)
- Furla
- Godiva
- L'Oréal Travel Retail
- Beam Suntory GTR
- Bottega
- Campari
- La Prairie
- Lindt & Sprüngli.

Frank O'Connell, President of the ETRC said:

*'It's very encouraging to see such strong attendance and participation from the membership of ETRC. The challenges we are facing from regulatory change across Europe should never be underestimated and today's turnout reflects that concern. We are very happy that member companies are realising such value from the ETRC Business Forum.'*

Newly-appointed ETRC Secretary General Julie Lassaigne said;

*"Having organised the ETRC Business Forum for some years now, it is wonderful to see the numbers grow and this year is our best yet. 2019 will be challenging for our members on many issues but ETRC stands ready to robustly defend our industry and all our categories. Our membership has grown substantially in recent years but there are still many gaps amongst key suppliers, and I would urge those that haven't joined to do so'.*

The ETRC Business Forum is an annual event which is free to attend for all members of the ETRC.



**Note to the editor**

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***About the European Travel Retail Confederation***

*The European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) is an industry association for the duty free and travel retail industry in Europe, serving the industry and its members to help create the right environment to allow the industry to achieve its potential and protect it when challenges arise.*

*ETRC is composed of national and regional affiliated trade associations representing over 200 European companies, Tax Free World Association (TFWA) representing 500 brand companies, and direct corporate membership from individual companies working in the duty free and travel retail trade across Europe and beyond. The European Travel Retail Confederation's operations are directed by its Supervisory and Managing Boards and carried out by a full-time secretariat. For more information about the organisation, please see our website – [www.etrc.org](http://www.etrc.org)*