



For immediate release

16.11.2022

## New report highlights benefits of Arrival Duty and Tax Free shopping to aviation ecosystem

A new report commissioned from York Aviation by ETRC reveals how arrivals duty-free shops have developed in three example European countries (Norway, Switzerland, Turkey) and how they have helped airports to grow and develop. The report was launched today at a luncheon in Brussels co-hosted by ACI EUROPE and ETRC.

Following introductory remarks by Julie Lassaigue (Secretary General, ETRC) and Morgan Foulkes (Deputy Director General, ACI EUROPE), James Brass, Partner at York Aviation and author of the report, showed the key roles of arrivals shops in providing an additional commercial revenue stream that supports investment and growth of the aviation ecosystem, connectivity and serves travellers' needs.

The case studies also considered the evidence around some of the common objections to arrivals shops, namely the potential to interfere with domestic markets and the potential to increase smuggling. Based on historical data, there is no evidence to suggest an impact on domestic markets nor smuggling.

The report aims to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the possibility of expanding the scope of duty and tax-free sales to inbound passengers at EU airports in the context of the impact assessment recently launched by the EU Directorate-General on Taxation and Customs Union (DG TAXUD) on VAT rules applicable to the travel and tourism sector. The European Commission intends to present a legislative review in the course of 2023.

Morgan Foulkes, Deputy Director General at ACI EUROPE said: *"The damage to European airports from COVID-19 has been unprecedented. Arrivals Duty and Tax Free shopping is a cost-neutral measure for governments but one which could support the financial sustainability of our EU airports. Over 60 countries currently allow Arrivals Duty and Tax Free shopping, including all EEA countries. It is time to review EU legislation to bring EU airports in line with global practice."*

*"The report clearly shows that arrivals duty-free is a proven business model that can deliver reliable revenue stream to the travel ecosystem with wider positive impacts. As part of the ongoing EU initiative on the VAT rules applicable to travel and tourism sector, we call on the European Commission to propose necessary changes to allow arrivals duty-free in the EU to support the resilience and competitiveness of EU aviation"* concluded ETRC Secretary General Julie Lassaigue.

**ENDS**



**For more information, please contact:**

Julie Lassaigne  
Secretary General, ETRC  
Tel: +32 (0)2 792 0243  
Email: [julie.lassaigne@etrc.org](mailto:julie.lassaigne@etrc.org)

***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)*