



Press Release – For immediate release

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Wake up call for the future of Duty Free

The European Travel Retail Confederation Annual Business Forum meeting, held on January, 25th at the Brussels Airport Sheraton hotel, brought together more than 120 leading industry representatives – the biggest attendance ever – to focus on key challenges and opportunities for the retail channel.

ETRC is leading industry action on many important topics such as product labelling and consumer information, transport security, Brexit and category specific challenges.

The keynote speech was given by Olivier Jankovec, Director General of Airport Council International (ACI) Europe, the umbrella organisation of European airports. Mr. Jankovec gave his views on major issues faced by European airports today, including challenges to the aviation industry in a post-Brexit Europe.

ETRC supports continued access to the Single Aviation Market and participation in the EU Customs Union by the UK – its member companies depend heavily upon the continued development of traffic and trade between the UK and the European Union. However the UK's expected departure from the EU on 29 March 2019 brings significant commercial opportunities with the expected return of duty free sales for travellers between the UK and the EU and delegates were given a comprehensive overview of the campaign at both EU and national level.

ETRC presented to delegates the truly ground-breaking off-the label solution that it has developed to meet pressing demands for the provision of information to consumers across a range of product categories. If accepted at EU level, it is expected to be taken up more widely outside the travel retail channel.

It is clear that the increasing public health agenda means that concerns first targeted tobacco, then food, now encompass alcohol and beauty – all core categories in our retail channel.

Following the event, ETRC President Sarah Branquinho commented: “The exceptionally high attendance at the Forum, demonstrates the vitality of the industry and the determination of our members to work with ETRC to deliver solutions which are essential to securing the future of our retail business.”

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Note to the editor:

For more information, please contact

ETRC
Julie Lassaigne
Deputy Secretary General
Tel: +32 (0)2 792 02 43
Email: julie.lassaigne@etrc.org

ETRC
Keith Spinks
Secretary General
Tel: +34 (0) 687 529 528
Email: keith.spinks@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

