



Press Statement

28 January 2016 – For Immediate Release

EU Transport Commissioner voices support for the duty free travel retail Industry *'A unique retail channel with specific needs'*

Over 100 industry attendees at the ETRC Annual Forum were treated to a rare opportunity to hear from the European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport, Violeta Bulc, who gave a strong speech which highlighted the importance of the duty free and travel retail industry as part of the transport network's ecosystem.

The Commissioner spoke about the recently launched EU Aviation Strategy and the important role of duty free and travel retail to the economic wellbeing of airports, which in turn are key to connectivity and economic growth. She also acknowledged its importance in the maritime sector where her Cabinet is also focusing its attention.

Acknowledging the challenges the duty and tax free industry faces, the Commissioner called on participants to come forward with ideas and solutions stating that "dialogue with the industry is essential to further improving the passenger experience and growing revenues."

ETRC's President Sarah Branquinho said, "Commissioner Bulc has acknowledged today the important role duty free and travel retail plays in the wider transport agenda. We look forward to working with the Commissioner and her team to ensure we play our full part in delivering the ambitious programme set by the Commissioner."

During the event, "Championing Consumer Choice" a number of insightful presentations examined challenges to the duty free and travel retail industry. Guest speakers from m1nd-set and CIR presented research findings and new insights into duty free and travel retail customers. A presentation from ETRC on the complexity of the provision of information to consumers in travel retail preceded a debate, at the end of which ETRC was given a clear mandate by its members to pursue new and innovative solutions.

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About the European Travel Retail Confederation

The European Travel Retail Confederation represents the interests of companies in Europe selling tax and duty free products and services to international air and sea travellers, as well as companies operating in the European tax and duty paid travel retail trading environment that developed following abolition of intra-EU duty free sales on June 30th, 1999. The organisation works closely with European and international governments, regulatory bodies and other stakeholders and is composed of direct corporate membership and national trade associations representing over 500 European companies.

The European Travel Retail Confederation's operations are directed by its Supervisory & Management Boards and carried out by full-time secretariats headquartered in Paris and Brussels. For more information about the organisation, please see our website – www.etric.org