

Press Statement – For immediate release

01.02.2024

ETRC Business Forum draws strong attendance to discuss industry challenges as uncertain times lie ahead

The European Travel Retail Confederation (ETRC) organised its annual Business Forum on February 1st in Amsterdam, attracting 135 delegates from over 80 different organisations active in European Travel Retail.

ETRC welcomed the strong participation from companies across its network of national and regional associations, with notably record numbers for the networking dinner – underlining their vitality and relevance as industry platforms.

This year's conference was brought to life under the theme "Expect the unexpected" as a reflexion of turbulent times in an uncertain geopolitical context and a decisive election year. Keynote speaker Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Economist & Chief Executive at the European Policy Center, reflected on Europe's political and economical position in the world, in light of forthcoming elections in the EU and US.

Sustainability and regulatory topics – and how the Travel Retail is equipped to address them – were the focus of a roundtable composed of airports- and ETRC policy experts, namely Anna Vasila, Head of Sustainability and Industry Affairs, Athens Airport; Sergio Gallorini, Commercial Consumer Director, Naples Airport; Julie Lassaigne, Secretary General and Ricardo Oliveira, Senior Counsel at ETRC. The maritime segment was not left behind with Piret Mürk-Dubout, SVP and Member of the Management Board of Tallink Grupp offering valuable insights into the specificities of ferry retailing.

Delegates were also presented with the results of the latest ETRC Business Performance Index, presented by Stephen Hillam, Managing Director at Pi Insight. The report was complemented by category insights from an impressive lineup of retailer representatives: Britta Hoffmann, Director Purchasing Perfume & Cosmetics, Gebr. Heinemann; Victoire Gueugnier, Global Director for beverages (Spirits, Wine and Champagne), Lagardère Travel Retail; Richard Maynes, Global Head of Fashion & Accessories, Aer Rianta International and Philippe Moryl, Global Category Head Confectionery, Food, Souvenirs & Toys, Avolta.

The day concluded on a very powerful note thanks to the presentation of Dame Kelly Holmes, remembered as the first woman ever in Great Britain to win two gold medals at the same games at the 2004 Athens Olympics; who captivated the audience with her story of resilience and transformative lessons.

Nigel Keal, President of ETRC, commented: “We are so pleased that year on year, the ETRC Business Forum continues to attract a large crowd and provides a platform for members to learn, exchange on challenges and best practices, and be inspired. We look forward to continue working with our members to identify and promote conditions for a sustainable future for Duty Free and Travel Retail in Europe”.

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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