



## Press Statement

27 January 2015 – For Immediate Release

### Duty Free and Travel Retail Industry meets to discuss challenges

Over 75 member companies and representatives from national and regional associations were represented at the annual ETRC Business Forum which took place on Thursday 22 January 2015 at the Brussels Airport Sheraton Hotel. The strong member participation contributed to lively discussions on the state of the industry.

The theme of the event, *“Is the Single Market fragmenting Duty Free and Travel Retail?”* was addressed through a number of insightful presentations, which examined challenges to the duty free and travel retail industry both today and in the future. Faced with increasing demands to provide information to the consumer in prescribed languages and with specific technical requirements, our pan-European business faces complications which, if unresolved, will lead to a reduction in consumer choice – the antithesis of the objectives of the EU. Topics such as Air Passenger Rights, tobacco retailing, product labelling, and communication to consumers in travel retail were addressed through informative presentations and Q&A sessions.

ETRC was particularly pleased to welcome key note speaker Emmanuelle Maire, Head of Unit Internal Market and Airports from the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE), European Commission, who spoke at length about the key challenges for the European aviation market, supported by some fascinating statistics. Ms Maire was keen to gain a better understanding of the importance of airport retailing as a contributor to airport revenues, and participated in the lively Q & A session that followed the presentation of the ETRC Index for 2014.

Speaking on the success of the day, ETRC President Sarah Branquinho commented; “ETRC relies on the active participation of its members and is delighted that the Business Forum 2015 attracted the largest number of attendees to date. Although our industry continues to face challenges, it is heartening to see the level of participation demonstrated by our members who clearly recognise the need to be pro-active in developing appropriate and innovative solutions to meet regulatory demands. ETRC looks forward to another successful year working with our members to advance the interests of the duty free and travel retail industry and to drive growth. ”

#### ENDS

For more information, please contact:

#### ETRC

Keith Spinks

Secretary General

Tel: +34 (0) 932 051 276

Mob: +34 (0) 687 529 528

Email: [keith.spinks@etrc.org](mailto:keith.spinks@etrc.org)