

## **EuroCommerce supports European Parliament calls for action on the Single Market**

EuroCommerce today warmly welcomed MEP Daniel Dalton's (UK, ECR) report on non-tariff barriers in the single market, and the recognition in it of the key role retail and wholesale can play in making the EU single market work for consumers across Europe.

But Christian Verschueren, Director-General, warned :*"Twenty-five years ago we were promised that the EU single market would be complete by 1992; in 1979, the European Court ruled that any product legally sold in one market could be sold anywhere in the EU. Yet in 2016 we see mutual recognition still the exception rather than the rule, and national regulation and barriers to free movement of goods proliferating."*

This was in the context of a meeting in the European Parliament today organised by EuroCommerce, hosted by Dariusz Rosati MEP (PL, EPP).

The European Parliament estimates the cost of a non-single market at 651 billion EUR a year. Europe pays three times over for the single market not working properly: producers, retailers and wholesalers pay for unnecessary retesting, relabelling and modifications, consumers pay for this in higher prices and less choice, and the European economy pays by not being able to match the global competitiveness of its economic rivals.

*"The consumer ends up footing the bill for these restrictions. The Commission and member states must ensure that EU rules are properly implemented, and avoid the single market being undermined by national regulation which goes beyond European legislation and discriminates against other European companies"*, Verschueren added.

EuroCommerce also joined other European business organisations in voicing concern at signs of the reintroduction of border controls and dismantling Schengen. Border controls will considerably slow down the growing cross-border trade in goods, undermining years of progress in advancing the Single Market. and raising further prices for consumers.

*"Retailers and wholesalers face enough barriers to trading across Europe as it is. Thirteen million lorries cross the border between Germany and the Netherlands alone every year; even only 30 minutes wait at that border would mean the cumulative equivalent of some 11 months delay in goods traffic annually, with this potentially replicated across multiple borders in Europe"*, Verschueren concluded.

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### **EuroCommerce**

EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 31 countries and 5.5 million companies, both leading multinational retailers such as Carrefour, Ikea, Metro and Tesco and many small family operations. Retail and wholesale provide a link between producers and 500 million European consumers over a billion times a day. It generates 1 in 7 jobs, providing a varied career for 29 million Europeans, many of them young people. It also supports millions of further jobs throughout the supply chain, from small local suppliers to international businesses.

<http://www.eurocommerce.eu>