

Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovkis speaks on trade and recovery

At the latest of its series of Policy Talks today, EuroCommerce Director-General said:

“We are delighted that Executive Vice-President Dombrovkis has agreed to speak to us about a number of issues under his wide portfolio, including the EU’s approach to international trade following the Commission’s recent trade policy review, and how this can support Europe’s economic recovery and the EU industrial strategy. Our sector relies on complex, global supply chains to give consumers a wide choice of quality products at competitive prices. We are also directly dependent on, and can be a driver of economic growth and consumer confidence. With many retailers and wholesalers, and particularly SMEs hit hard by COVID crisis, we have a real interest in Europe rapidly getting back on its feet”.

In his speech and in responding to questions submitted by the audience, he will be covering, among other issues:

- How trade policy and the review of the Industrial Strategy fit together and the concept of Open Strategic Autonomy;
- The role of trade in driving growth and how it will contribute to EU recovery along with the EU recovery programme;
- The role of SMEs as drivers of innovation and growth in the EU economy and the EU SME strategy, including how SMEs benefit most from removal of trade barriers and regulatory burdens.

A link to the live event is available [here](#).

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EuroCommerce is the principal European organisation representing the retail and wholesale sector. It embraces national associations in 31 countries and 5.4 million companies, both leading global players such as Carrefour, Ikea, Metro and Tesco, and many small businesses. 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. EuroCommerce is the recognised European social partner for the retail and wholesale sector.